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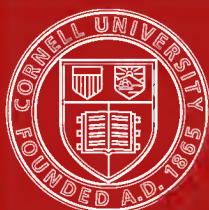
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# THE PLACE-NAMES OF ARGYLL

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# THE PLACE-NAMES OF ARGYLL

BY

H. CAMERON GILLIES, M.D.

WITH A SHORT PREFACE FROM

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL

LONDON

DAVID NUTT, 57-59 LONG ACRE

1906

E.V.

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## PREFACE

THIS seems to me a valuable book, and I am glad the London Argyllshire Association has encouraged the author in what must have been a really hard work. It must be of interest to all branches of the Celtic-speaking people, not only to all the Highlands and all Scotland as well as to Argyll, but to Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, and Brittany, where the old language is retained, if not always as a spoken tongue, yet always in their own old names from the same or a kindred origin. It may be of interest to even those outside the Celtic circle to learn how much of true and important history lies dormant in the place-names of a country. Argyll is exceptionally complex in its history and therefore very rich in its names, and I am not surprised that the author found many of them to be difficult to explain, and some even impossible.

The several layers of names left by succeeding races come out very clearly. There are the "bottom" names of the pre-Celtic race, variously named "Iberian," "Pictish," and otherwise. These must be difficult to explain, perhaps they never can be explained.

The Gaelic names are by far the most numerous, but they seem to be coming well into the control of Gaelic

scholars. They are always poetically appropriate to the land-features of the country.

Norse names are surprisingly numerous in some parts, in the islands especially. This shows what a strong hold the conquering Norseman had upon the West, through something like five hundred years.

The chapter upon the names derived from the Columban Church, seated in venerable Iona, is especially interesting to all who have watched the influence of the "pure Culdees" in the spreading of Christianity.

I am very glad to accept this work on behalf of the Association, and I hope it will be appreciated by our people as I believe it deserves to be.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angus', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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<b>K.</b> . . . . .	Kintyre.	<b>S.</b> . . . . .	Sunart.
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<b>E.</b> . . . . .	Kilmaillie.	<b>I.</b> . . . . .	Islay.

## “ ARGYLLSHIRE ”

BY HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL

Written for the “ London Argyllshire Association,” April 1902

*Who knows Argyllshire's story  
Can tell all Britain's fate,  
Since there the Romans' glory  
Broke, at her Highland gate,  
To leave to sons of Erin,  
To bring the Scottish name,  
Where blessed by holy Kiaran,  
A town has kingly fame.*

*For there the stone of wonder,  
To Eastern Magic known,  
Was brought, the Oak thwarts under,  
Great Britain's Crowning Stone !  
Kinloch, Dunadd, Dunstaffnage,  
Three forts of old renown,  
Safe kept that stone, the presage,  
Where Scot shall wear the Crown.*

# “ ARGYLLSHIRE ”

*Once more Iona ! waken,  
 With Choral song the deeps ;  
 Lift fear from hearts sin shaken,  
 Where great Columba sleeps :—  
 Green isle of white sands—bearer  
 Of happiness and doom—  
 Dyed with a hue yet fairer,  
 The Red—of Martyrdom !*

*Argyll's sweet dewy splendour,  
 Looks over Loch and Sound,  
 Whose purple lights attend her,  
 Imperially crowned ;  
 And kissed by loving Nature,  
 In Ocean's arms she lies,  
 Fair fenced with hills whose verdure,  
 From Isle and Mainland rise.*

. . . . .

*She knows she gave the cradle,  
 From whence has Empire grown,  
 And proudly minds the fable,  
 “ Scots rule where stands yon Stone.”*



## INTRODUCTION

I HAVE undertaken this rather difficult piece of work, first, from a feeling that it ought to be done, and did not know of any one else anxious or ready to do it, and second, on behalf of the London Argyllshire Association, who have shown a keen interest in the matter, and readily undertook the considerable expense which the publication entails. I am quite aware that the work is far from perfect. No person could make it perfect; and certainly no one in my position, with my poor scraps of available time, could do it better. I believe it is as nearly correct as any one could make it. I say this not for myself altogether, but because I have had the constant utmost assistance of competent friends, whose only regret has been that they could not assist me more. Their feeling of weakness, as mine also, has been because in a work of this kind, even fairly competent knowledge must fail when the outmost limits of reliable history and language are reached. The scope of such a work as this is practically without definite limits. In the case of Argyll this is peculiarly true. Far beyond the time of the Dalriadic kingdom, there was an intimate contact of the land, now and for so long called Argyll, with the hoary history of Ireland—a contact more easily felt than found out or definitely stated by any one searching in that way; and far beyond the accepted Norse invasion of the early ninth century

there is abundant evidence to show that the Norseman was a considerable factor in the historic dawn of the Western Isles and the West Highlands of Scotland. Then there is the great chapter of the Columban Church—one of the cleanest and finest chapters that has ever come into the life of any people—to which we owe more than can be easily measured or ascertained. There is beyond all this the fragmentary record of a past race and people which must have come appreciably into our making, and have left us a few “bed-rock” names, which are the despair of the historian and of the linguistic historian particularly. We know that they long ago passed away; we know that they have left us a few of their bones in caves and “barrows”; we believe that they have left us fragments of their speech in our place-names, and perhaps in our language; we must believe that they have left us a few drops of their blood—and that is all we know or can believe regarding them.

The Gaelic language is the big factor in the place-names of Argyll—and it carries far. It has been there from the “beginning” as we appreciate time and tide. The Church did not detract from it, but rather added to its fulness. The Norseman tried to blot it out, as others have tried in later days, but it has survived and prevailed. It conquered the Norseman and his tongue, and it will do the same to all powers whatsoever. It is written in the rock. The first purpose of my effort is to make the writing intelligible, lovable, indelible—to provide a handbook to the great original, that all sons and daughters, and even fosterlings, may know and understand the voice of the days that are gone, as spoken for ever by our native hills and streams and lovely valleys. I am sorry that I have had to present it in so barren form. I

could have clothed it here and there with a fine piece of tradition or romance, but had to refrain for reasons that may be easily understood. Any appreciable attempt in that way would have made the book too large, and would go altogether beyond its intent and purpose. I have no doubt that some day, by some one, my very dry skeleton will be re-covered in every limb with the flesh and blood of its great romance, and so restore its fine, full form.

The plan that I have followed (p. 22) I have found to be very helpful. It has the merit of historical sequence, and it has enabled me to go over this very large ground, as I believe, somewhat effectively. There may be omissions, and there may be errors, but I venture to say that from the one side or from the other, these are not very considerable. A very competent knowledge of old and modern Gaelic, as well as of the old Norse language, is necessary for the full interpretation of Argyll names, and while I may with some justice lay claim to the former, I cannot with anything like so adequate reason lay claim to the latter. Again, a full knowledge of local environment and history and tradition is necessary, which, in respect to some districts, I do not possess intimately. The local pronunciation of names, again, is often a great help, even a necessity—for instance, Killarow in Islay is there pronounced as the word shows, with the accent on the second syllable, but in Kintyre the name has the accent correctly on the last syllable, and this at once gives the keynote to the meaning of the name (p. 175). The tendency of the accent to come forward is strong to mislead. For all these reasons, error is always possible. Minute knowledge, so far, so wide, and so deep, can hardly be expected of any

one person. I have, however, had the help of competent men, natives of such districts as I do not myself know well, so it may be taken that possible error has been guarded against as carefully as it could well be.

Because the body of the book is so very hard and dry, I have thought that it might be well to indicate briefly the method that shows itself in our place-names. English neglected, and that prehistoric element already mentioned, the Gaelic language and the old Norse speech are the sources of nearly all the place-names of Argyll. The mental method, so to put it, of both languages is closely the same. The great number of names, from both sources, consist of two parts—(1) a general or generic part, and (2) an attributive or specific part. Gaelic, as a rule, puts the attributive second, the Norse puts it first, in the name. The Norse has *ha-r-bost*, *the high-steading*, or “*town*” on the high ground, the adjective being first; but Gaelic has *baile-àrd* for the same name, the adjective coming second. Both languages use the adjective and the attributive noun-genitive, in perhaps the same proportion—the only difference being that just mentioned.

There are exceptions. In old Gaelic the attributive was nearly always first, and remnants of that usage remain in our speech, and especially in our place-names, to the present day—for instance, *glais-bheinn*, *grey-mountain*; *Mor-vern*, *the sea-cleft* (p. 102).

A few groups of place-name elements stand so distinctly out from the main body of names that I refer to them specially.

## RIVER-NAMES

The River-names are the oldest, most interesting, and most difficult of all. Names like **Fìn-e**, **Òsd-e**, **Oùd-e**, **Sheil-e**, seem to carry us back to the very limits of our knowledge and understanding. **Ath-a**, **Foll-a**, **Iol-a**, belong without doubt to the same class, notwithstanding p. 69. The terminals are identical in sound—which is an indefinite-vowel short sound as near as can be to that of the English *u* in *but*. It is quite different from the unquestionably Norse terminal of **Aor-á**, **Shir-á**, **Lang-á**, which is the full open *a*, as in English *car*; and yet it would be as unsafe to say that these endings have not had a kindred origin in language, as it would be to assert the contrary. All that can be said with certainty is that the ending must mean *water*, or *river*, and that the first part is the specific, attributive part, and in these instances extremely difficult. The forms in **-aidh**, as **Lòch-aidh**, **Màil-idh**, **Orch-aidh**, are also old, perhaps as old as the others, and perhaps akin to them—the sound is that of English *y*, as it is expressed in *Lochy*, *Maily*, *Orchy*.

The names in **-aig**, **-ail**, **-ain** seem to come nearer to ourselves, and to be easier understood in both their parts. **Dubhaig**, **Eachaig**, **Faochaig**, **Sùileig**, are quite easy; so is **Gaodhail**, **Cainneil**, **Teitheil**; and so also **Fionain** and **Caolain**. These all, and such, are easily within the reach of the Gaelic language of comparatively modern time. **Glas**, as the river-terminal, in **Dubh-ghlas**, **Fion-ghlas**, is certainly old. It seems to be essentially the colour-adjective **glas**; and seeing that the old nominative form is **glais-e**, there is a strong suggestion

that it might be classed with **Fin-e** as a descriptive River-name of the very old time, the meaning of which in later days was forgotten or lost, so that the original compound name was looked upon as a simple word needing a new descriptive, which was supplied by **Dubh** and **Fion**. The ending in **-lighe**, as in **Dubh-lighe**, **Fion-lighe** (p. 77), is evidently the same as comes into the stem of **Leven** and **Liver** (p. 72). The River-ending in **-ir** is rare.

### HILL-NAMES

The names of Hills are altogether fanciful. Figures and concepts of familiarly near forms and things are thrown against the sky according as resemblances in greater and remoter objects suggest themselves to the imagination. **Cruchan** (Ben) is *the hip* of the human body projected, and that greatly. **Màm**—a frequent name for round, smooth hills—is the human female *mamma*, the “breast,” or “pap,” thrown into big perspective, as is also **Cloch**, so finely figured in “The Paps” of Jura. **Ceann**, *the head*; **Mala**, *the brow*; **Aodann**, *the face*; **Guala**, *the shoulder*; **Uileann**, *the “elbow”*; and **Tòn**, *the podex*, are all in the same way. Such names as **Buachail Etive**, *the Shepherd of Etive*; **am Bòrd Latharnach**, *the Table of Lorn*; **Greideal Fhinn**, *Fionn’s griddle*, are all of them, and many others of a similar kind, really fine imagining.

The general and most common names for large mountains are **Beinn**, **Sgùrr**, **Monadh**, and **Sliabh**. **Beinn**—the English *Ben*—is always a distinct mountain, rising sharp and definite to a top or point, like Ben Dorain, Ben More, &c. The **Sgùrr** (a variant of **Sgòrr**) is a

*scarred* Ben, high and distinct as a *Ben*, but rough and torn and scarred. Many a **Beinn** is sufficiently rough and torn to be named a **Sgùrr**, but when named **Sgùrr** the mountain name is always pertinent to its character and to the explanation given. The general name **Monadh** is that of a comparatively high mountain, not rising to a top, but long-extending and of uniform height in all its length. **Sliabh** is not a very common name in Scottish Hills. It seems to mean as nearly as possible not a definite Hill, but as much of a **Monadh** as can be seen from one side—with kindred in language to English *slope*, perhaps.

**Maol**, a very frequent mountain name, is simply the Gaelic word for *bald*, used in the same sense, only remotely, as it was used for the "*bald*," or *tonsured*, Saints of the old Church (p. 75). The name as applied to Hills is distinctly fanciful. **Meall**—a Gaelic word also—is simply "a mass," or an indefinite "*heap*," of a mountain, and has nothing to do with **Maol**. The N. **Mul-r**, again, which takes the same form in Gaelic as **Maol**, seems to have no kinship with the Gaelic word. The Norse word is always applied to a sea-promontory, like *the Mull* of Kintyre. Many terminals in **-mal**, **-val**, are Norse Hill-names from **Mul-r** possibly sometimes, but certainly often from N. **fjall** and **hvall**.

**Biod** and **Stob** are not uncommon Hill-names. They are in a sense the opposites of the Gaelic **Maol**. They are *pointed* always, and, usually, comparatively high hills.

**Tòrr**, which seems to have remained in Cornwall more than in any other of the Keltic districts, is a hill, not very high, but always round and "flat." The word **Torran**, the dim., is used of a mound, or even of a small heap or round elevation of even a few feet high.

**Tullach** is very close to the meaning of **Tòrr**, but it is always upon a high ground. It also carries the feeling of having some extension, as in **Monadh**, but on a smaller scale.

## COLOURS

Names with Colour attributives are so very frequent that I have thought a note upon them would be well.

**Bàn** is *white, fair*, and **Geal** is *white*, but there is a very interesting difference in their usage. **Each bàn**, a *white horse*, is correct, but **each geal** is impossible in ordinary speech; and yet the "white horse" of Rev. vi. 2 is **each geal**, a vivid and powerful picture which would be exceedingly weakened as **each bàn**. **Gille bàn**, a *fair youth*, is in good taste, but **gille geal** would be ridiculous and even offensive. On the other hand, **nighean bhàn** is correct for a *fair girl*, but a certain condition of mind not only excuses but demands the use of **geal**. A beautiful love song has it—

**Ged theireadh càch gu'n robh thu dubh  
Bu gheal 's an gruth leam fhéin thu;**

and in a song to "Prince Charlie" he is spoken of as "**Mo rùn geal òg**." It is remarkable that he was almost always referred to, poetically, as a beautiful young woman. The snow is always **geal** by best right; **bàn** is **geal**—in the shade. The old word **fionn**, *white*, which is met with in old names, has lost its touch with the modern language.

**Glas** is of very wide and various usage. **Each glas** is the only correct expression for a *grey horse*, but **ceann glas** for a man's *grey head* would be quite unintelligible.



It is always **ceann liath**. The *pale horse* of Rev. vi. 8 is rendered as **each glas**, which one feels to be wrong. The pale horse ridden by anaemic Death is not the grey horse of Gaelic, which is somehow peculiarly and exceptionally in mental association with force and power and strength—and yet we speak of **neula glas a' bhàis**, *the pale shadow, or cloud, of death*. The Psalmist is made to lie down in the *green* pastures, **air chluainibh glas**, and this seems to be an old and reliable value of the word. Islay-men speak ever affectionately of **Ìle ghlas an fheòir**, *green, grassy Islay*. Some may be disposed to think that this seemingly loose use of language shows an indiscriminating and obtuse mind in our language and people. It is not so. The touch and tinge of these words is outside the English language. The glorious gamut of the day-dawn as it comes down from the hill-tops into the valley, and the infinite shades of the evening, cannot be cast in even mental moulds nor limited by straight lines. Gaelic is the language of these, which grew from them and is of them—and that is the explanation of its fine and indefinite variety of shade.

**Gorm** and **Uaine** and **Liath** merge into each other and even into other shades. **Gorm** is roughly translated as *blue*, **Uaine** as *green*, and **Liath** has its most common and most correct usage in the instance already given. All three are used of the waves of the sea, and any one who knows the sea will not ask a reason for this. The blends of colour indicated by **dùbh-ghorm**, **liath-ghlas**, *blue-black* and *grey-green*, while showing an effort to be precise in expression, show also the kinship of the colours so blended. Colours that are distinctly different are never blended. **Dubh-liath**, however, is the Gaelic name for the Spleen, but this is not a difficult combina-

tion; it is a fairly correct statement of the colour of the organ.

**Buidhe**, *yellow*, has the same wide range of application as in English. It runs all the way from clay to gold up to the **buidheag**, "The opening gowan wet wi' dew," and it has most interesting "sidings," which cannot be here entered upon. I have a feeling that Loch-buy, M., is named upon the river, of the -e terminal (p. xiii.), and that this is the base of the name. Carnbuie, Dalbuy, Breidbuidhe, all K., are built upon it.

**Dubh** is *black* pure and simple. It needs no explanation. In the old language **dubh** was used as a noun, for *ink*. In all names it is now used as an adjective. **Dòrch**, *dark*, seems to be related to **dubh** as **bàn** is to **geal**. **Geal** was the highest *white*, as **dubh** was the deepest *black*. **Bàn** is a degrading from *white*, as **dorch** is an aggrading towards *black*. It is impossible to say where the one ends or where the other begins.

**Breac** means *spotted*. A trout is called a **breac**, because it is "spotted," and so is small-pox, the *spotted* disease, and so are "freckles" the **breaca sianain**, the pretty *gem*-spots upon the human skin.

**Odhar** is one of the most difficult words in Gaelic to translate into English. It is usually given to mean "dun," but this *dun* is itself a Gaelic word, **donn**, and of quite different meaning. **Odhar** is a colour frequent in cattle, but rare in horses, in which **donn** is the prevailing colour. **Odhar** is a deep or dark cream colour; **donn** is about half and half red (as red hair is spoken of) and black. The word is not far from the value of English *ochre*.

**Dearg** and **Ruadh** (for which English only gives *red*) have a wide range, from the colour of the "roe,"

which is the Gaelic **ruadh-ag**, right up to intensest scarlet. In such names as **Bealach-ruadh** the adjective refers to the *red* earth, or to the red appearance of the surface—in this weak sense. The gradation is practically infinite between **dearg** and **ruadh**.

**Riabhach** is usually translated as *brindled*. The most exact meaning, however, is that it is the colour of *the lark*—the **riabhag**. One of the “titles” of the Devil is an **Riabhach mór**, the mighty *singed-one*, an expression that may help towards a correct understanding of the colour—and of other things.

**Grisionn** is literally *grey-white*, from **gris**, *grey*, and **fionn**, *white*. This also is translated *brindled*, but they are altogether different colours. The only element common to them is that they are more or less striped—**riabhach**, *red and black* ; **grisionn**, *grey and white*.

## THE “DUNS”

The name Dùn is always a general term, but sometimes it loses its attributive and becomes specific, as **an Dùn**, **an Dùnan**. The primary meaning of the word is simply *a heap*—in fact, the “midden” or a dung-heap is **an dùn** especially. In place-names the word means a low *heap* of a hill, or an old stronghold of which the remains are usually to be seen. When the word has the latter meaning, it often has with it the personal name with which its story is associated ; as **Dun-Aoidh**, **Dun-Askain**, **Dun-Abhertich**, **Dun-Bhruchlain**, **Dun-Cholgain**, **Dun-Domhnaill**, **Dun-olla(f)**, **Dun-Mhurchaidh**, **Dun-Ròstain**, **Dun-Sgobuill**, &c. When it simply means *a hill*, the attributive is commonly an adjective—**Dun-bàn**,

**Dun-dubh**, **Dun-glas**, or some fanciful association, as in **Dun - losgain**, **Dun nam muc**, **Dun na muir - gheidh**. Whether of the one meaning or the other, the Dun may be named upon its surroundings or neighbourhood, like **Dun-Add**, named upon the river Add (which is really **Fada**, *long*, with *f* aspirated away), *the fort upon the* (river) *Add*. **Dunstaffnage** is the Dun *fort* upon the N. **Staffa** + *nes*, **Dun-leacainn**, the *leacann-hill* (p. 16), **Dun-troon** = **Dun an t-sròin**, *the hill by the knowe*, **Dun-Chàrnain**, *the fort by the cairn* (Fincharn, *the white cairn*).

## THE FORMATION OF NAMES

I have thought that a short statement of the way in which names have been formed might be a help.

1. The simplest form of name would, of course, be a single noun, unqualified—but I have not found any. **Île** and **Muile**, and such, would appear at first sight to be of this kind, but they are certainly compound. **Rum**, which is the only quite naked name I can recall, must have lost its terminal part.

2. *Single-Noun Names with the Article* are quite numerous—an **Calbh**, an **Cnap**, a' **Mhaol**, na **Torran**, and so is this combination + *the diminutive*—an **Clachan** an t-**Òban**, an **Crianan**, na **Feannagan**. The ending in **-an** is masculine, that in **-ag** feminine.

3. Certain regular terminations come into names such as—

**-ach** (*a*) as *one of the*; (*b*) *the place of the*; (*c*) as the terminal of *quality* in adjectives—**Breatunn-ach**, *one of the Britons*; **Eirionnach**, *an Irishman*. Names under (*b*) are referred to (p. 8), and diminutives of the same class. As

adjectives, such words as **biorach** *point-ed*, **Góbhlaich** *fork-ed*, **creagach** *rock-ed*, are everywhere.

-a for N. **ey**, *island*, is constantly met in the island names—**Diùr-a**, **Orons-a**, **Colons-a**.

-a for N. **á**, *river*, is also quite familiar—**Aor-á**, **Shir-á**, **Lang-á**.

-aidh, which has been already referred to in the River-names, has a locative value in such names as **Largie**, **Lorgie**, **Machrie**.

-aig, also a River-ending, is referred to (p. 8).

-ail is an adjective terminal, as well as that of Rivers. It is frequent in description—**gaothail**, *wind-y*; **grian-ail**, *sun-y*.

-ar -air -aire, as in **machair**, **Conair**, **Uanaire**, is best translated as *the place of*. **Machair** has been derived from **magh**, *a field*, + **tìr**, *land*, in the aspirated form of which **t** disappears. It is not impossible that all these terminal forms have come by this way. It is quite certain that all the fragmentary endings of names are simply withered fuller forms of the old time.

-ain is the gen. form of the dim. -an, as well as a River-ending for **abhainn**, *river*, or old **ain**, *Water*.

-ad as in **leth-ad** (p. 21) also means *place*, or *land*, as does also -as in **Beàrn-as**, *the notch place*.

-lach and -rach, in **Seasg-lach**, **Muc-lach**, and **Muc-rach**, also mean *the place of*.

All these terminations are found with the dims. -an and -ag, **Luachair-ach-an**, **Cadal-ad-an**, **Giùbhas-ach-an**, **Tìr Aed-ag-ain**.

## THE NORSE INVASION

The Church chapter (p. 160) carries its own slight thread of continuity. A few more or less reliable facts

will be helpful to run a thread through the Norse names. Our first acceptedly correct knowledge of the Norseman in the West comes from the closing years of the eighth century, when he is known to have robbed and ravaged his way down through the Western Isles as far as Man. It is, however, quite certain that he was in the Isles and the West for a long time before this—perhaps for centuries. At first he came for plunder pure and simple, but later on he thought he would come to stay. He took possession of the richer islands and of the fertile valleys especially. Argyll was indeed “the Dales” to the Norse records of the time. In A.D. 852 the Danish kingdom of Dublin was founded by an Olave, son-in-law of Ketil *the flat-nosed* (Flatnef), who was at the time supreme in the Isles. A grandson of this Ketil was the man who pushed the Norse power into the mainland. There are two outstanding men in the Norse history of this time, namely, Harold *the fair-haired*, and Magnus, called *Barelegs*, because he took to the kilt, the dress of the conquered people. It was A.D. 1098 that Magnus set out for the conquest of the Western Isles, not for his kingdom or people, but for himself. “The terror of the Scots was his glory; he made the maidens to weep in the Southern Isles; he made the Manxman to fall.” He was killed in Ulster A.D. 1103. From his time onward it was incessant feud and faction, until another Magnus, the man who sailed round Kintyre, attempted, in A.D. 1252, to consolidate the kingdom, and he succeeded so far as the Isles were concerned. The Scottish king (Alexander III.), however, determined to have the Isles. Haco of Norway, hearing of this, came south with a great fleet that met with defeat and disaster at the Battle of Largs. This ended the Norse power.

Magnus of the Isles submitted to the Scottish King, A.D. 1264. He died the next year. In 1266 the Kingdom of Man and the Isles came into that of Scotland, after at least 500 years of Norse rule.

I have to acknowledge most valuable assistance from my friend Mr. Henry Whyte, of Glasgow ("Fionn"), who has followed every word of the work with almost as much care and anxiety for correctness as myself. I am indebted also to the Rev. J. G. Macneill, of Cawdor, the Rev. D. J. Macdonald, of Killean (Kintyre), Mr. Angus Sutherland, of the Scottish Fishery Board, and Dr. W. A. Macnaughton, Stonehaven, for their willing and very considerable help.

I offer the work to His Grace the Duke of Argyll, our Chief, who gave me every help that he could; to Mr. Samuel Greenlees, our good, kind President; and to the members of the London Argyllshire Association, as my contribution to the patriotic purposes of the Association, with only one regret—that it is not better done than it is. If I can, I may make it better some day.

I have put the groups of smaller islands, Canna, Rum, Eigg, and Muck, under the Ardnamurchan heading; and Coll, Tiree, Iona, &c., under Mull—simply for convenience. Working from the Ordnance Survey Map, I strangely enough took in the first group, which since 1891 have belonged to Inverness-shire. I should have been glad not to commit the mistake, for they are not at all easy—but "it is no loss what a friend gets."

My many cross references, although they do not

improve the look or the readableness of the book, are all for the saving of space. If I did not use them, much explanation would be necessary where they are used.

A few reference marks are wanting in the Gaelic Voc. It would entail a big labour to find them. I shall be thankful to any one who may locate them. I shall also be glad to have my attention directed to omissions or clear errors.



## THE COUNTY NAME

### ARGYLL, ARGYLE—~~EARAGH~~AIDHEAL

THIS is a very old name. It is much older than Scotia and Scotland, as these are now used. It was not till about the tenth century that the name Scotia got transferred from the north of Ireland to the present Scotland. It is well to keep this in mind ; it will be an interesting side-light upon the explanation to be here offered of the county name. No such name as Scotland or Scotia is or was known to the Gaelic language or to the Gaelic people. The present Scotland was and is "Alba" always. *Illa regio quae nunc vocatur Scotia antiquitus appellabatur Albania* (C. P. S.). Malcolm II. was the first of Scottish kings called "*rex Scotiae*" (circ. 1030). A writer of 1080 A.D. has "*Hibernia Scottorum patria quæ nunc Irland dicitur*"—*H., the home of the Scots, which is now called Ireland.*

Even the leading and great names "Alba" and "Scotia" have not yet been satisfactorily explained, but it is hoped here to be able to explain "Argyll." The Latin form of the name in old documents was "Ergadia" most commonly, but "Argathelia" sometimes. Upon the first form a most distinguished scholar has based an outrageous interpretation, that the name means nothing more nor less than "cattle-stealers." Whatever of reason, much or little, may have been in the *dictum* of a Glasgow Judge, not so very long

ago, that "a man must be a fool to let a cow out of his sight beyond Dumbarton," it must be said that this derivation of the name is weak philologically, and cannot be accepted—even when it comes from Oxford.

The native pronounciation of the name is **Eara-ghàidheal**, as given, or **Araghàidheal** in the northern part, which prefers the open voice ; but the name is the same always. It is shown in (D. L., 104) **a erle orreir zeil** (the vocative, *O thou, Earl of Argyll*), where  $z=y$ , in its correct form ; so there can be no doubt that the true original form is **Airir** and **Oirir-ghàidheal**. Now, this first part is shortened from **Airthir**, or **Oirthir**, for the two forms are the same word and of the same meaning, and this again breaks up into two parts, **air + thir**. The last syllable is easy ; it is the word **tìr** with which Gaelic people are very familiar. It means *the land*, or *the earth*, and is akin to the Latin word *terra*, of the same meaning.

The first part, **air**, or **oir**, remains in our language to this day in various usages, but all pointing in one certain direction. We speak of **oir na sgine**, *the edge of the knife* ; of **oir na mara**, *the border or coast of the sea* ; of **oir na h-aibhne**, *the bank of the river*—or the *edge, border, forepart*, always—and when we say **an àird an-ear**, *the east*, or *eastern* "*airt*," it is the same word that we use. It is the place of the rising sun, *the Or-ient*, as English people say—using a kindred Latin word. In the very beautiful old Gaelic "*Lay of Deirdre*," which is at least a thousand years old, the first lines are

**Inmain tìr an tìr ut th-oir**  
**Alba cona h-iongantaib.**

—*a lovely land that land east-ward, Alba with its wonders.*

The forefathers of our Gaelic people were sun-worshippers, and in their worship they turned the face, the edge, the front, towards the sun rising from the east. The back was *iar*, or *west-ward*, the right hand was *deas*, or *south-ward*, and the left hand *tuath*, or *north-ward*. Our preposition *air*, which till lately used to be written *iar*, means *after*, or *behind*, just as it means west. We say *air sin*, *after that*, and *iarthir*, *the West-land*. To go *deiseil*, or to the right hand, was a right and luckful action, but to go *tuathal*, or to the left-hand way, was esteemed a wrong and unfortunate course always. All this is very simple and quite familiar to the Gaelic people, even if they may not all or always know what it signifies.

The *oir-thir*, therefore, was the "East-land," and *oirthir-Ghàidheal* was the "East-land of the Gael."

If there may be any doubt still remaining as to the origin and meaning of the name, reference to old Gaelic books and records will make it clear. A few examples will suffice.

**Adamnan**, or little Adam, who was ninth Abbot of Iona after Colum-Cille, the founder, and died in 703 A.D., has left us two notable works: his *Vision*, called **Fis Adhamhnain**, and a *Life of Colum-Cille*. In a Gaelic version of the *Life* (L. B., p. 31) occurs *is amlaid bias ferand inmeic seo .i. aleth fria muir anair* (*i. inalbain*) **7 aleth fria muir aniar .i. aneirinn**—*it is thus* (or *so*) *is the land* (or *province*) *of this son, a half against the sea in the east—in Alba; and a half against the sea in the west—in Eirin*. This shows also how very close the contact was in this early time between the people of the north of Ireland and the west of Scotland. In a most valuable glossary, written by Cormac MacCullinan, King

of Munster, about 875 A.D., he says (under word **airber**), **air** then is everything eastern, but **ir** is everything that is western, *i.e.* **Irmuma**, *West Munster*; et ut dicitur **Ara airthir**, *Eastern Arran*. Again (under word **Mug-eime**, "the name of the first lapdog that was in Ireland") he says, "Cairbre Musc, son of Conaire, brought it from the East, from Britain; for, when great was the power of the Gael on Britain, they divided Alba between them into two districts, and each knew the residence of his friend, and not less did the Gael dwell on the east side of the sea *quam in Scotica*. . . . Cairbre Musc was visiting his friends and his family in the east, in Alba"—when he procured the dog. The word **airther** means a dweller in the east; nom. pl., **airthir**, "*anteriorum qui Scotice indairthir nuncupatur*" (Kal. Gloss.). **Naim airthir in domain**, *the saints of the East (land) of the world* (F. A. 4); and

**Sanct martain sær samail**

**Sliab oir iarthair domain,**

*St. Martin—noble simile*

*The mount of gold of the West of the world.*

—Kal. Nov. 11.

It is not necessary to follow the matter any further, however interesting it might be; there can be no doubt as to the meaning of the name. Argyll is "the East-land of the Gael." Let us take it now that this is clear; we have still to ask, Who gave this name? It is a Gaelic name in every part. It was given by a Gaelic people. A people, or rather say the dwellers in any country, are always named by those outside themselves. No people can rightly speak of an eastern land but a people living to west of that land; and if a western people name an

eastern land as the East-land *of the Gael*, it is an acknowledgment by them, and a proof to us, that even so early as the time in which the name was not even a name, but a description and a statement of simple fact, the people of the north and east of Ireland knew and recognised that the people of the west of Scotland were of themselves and one in race with them. The name Argyll was given by the Gaels of the north of Ireland for these very good reasons, and for a further and even better reason, if that is possible, namely, that there was no other people or person who could rightly give it.

Argyll was much larger in the old time than it is now. It covered the whole area from the Mull of Kintyre to the Clyde, west of Drum-Alban, as far north as the lower borders of the present Sutherland. The Book of Clan-Ranald speaks of the Isles and *all the Oirir* from Dun Breatan to Cata—from *Dumbarton to Caithness*; and the *northern* and the *southern oirir* is constantly referred to.

The eastern limit was Druim-Albain. The *Tractus de situ Albanie* (which, it must be said, seems to be not genuine) refers to Druim-Albain as "Montes qui dividunt Scotiam ab Arregaithel," *the mountains which divide Scotland from Argyll*. This name was in fact a general term covering the whole west of Scotland, which was, or was supposed to be, inhabited by Gaels—much the same as the word "Highlands" is used, and "the Highlanders"—a general term for all the people inhabiting the *high-lands*—are spoken of in the present day. There is no "Highlander" in Gaelic; it is a southern and English name.

In an Act of the Scottish Parliament in the time of William the Lion, Argyll was referred to as consisting of two parts, "*Ergadia quae pertinet ad Moraviam*"—the

## 6 THE PLACE-NAMES OF ARGYLL

northern part which pertained to the province of Moray, as against "*Ergadia que pertinet ad Scotiam*"—the southern part; and in a statute of Robert the Bruce the same expression, "*Ergadia que pertinet ad Scotiam*," occurs, and it further refers to "*terrā comitis de Ros in Nort Argyl*," showing that the west at least of Ross came under the name.

By process of a political limitation which belongs to general history, Argyll got smaller and smaller until ultimately the present county is of very nearly the same extent as the old kingdom of Dalriada, which never at any time was co-extensive with Argyll in its full meaning. Not only this, but the name has come to be now actually limited to that district of the county which lies between Loch Fyne and Loch Awe—north of Crinan. This part is *the* Argyll, as spoken of by natives of the other districts north and south of it; they always say "*the County of Argyll*" when they mean the whole administrative Argyll of the present time.

It may be said that there is nothing in the philological history of the name, either for or against either of the English forms. *Argyle* is the older form by far; it goes back with slight variations for hundreds of years. The form *Argyll* has no history, and is very modern.

By Edward II. (1310): "*Potestas datur Johanni de Ergayl recipiendi Galvidienses ad pacem regis Angliae*"; and in the same year: "*Donatio terrae de Knapdale facta Johanni de Ergadia et fratribus suis si poterint eam eripere e manibus Scottorum*"; and what is very interesting, this John is "*filius Sweinei de Argadia*," showing a Norse strain. In A.D. 1255 Henry III. took "*Eugenius (Eòghan) de Argoythel*" under his protection, and "*Duncan de Argatile*" signs a document in 1244.

## GENERAL TERMS

THE words treated in this chapter are old forms which in their first use and application were simply descriptive terms, but which, in later days, have hardened into proper names almost always. It will be easily seen that they could not be adequately explained by the naked translation of the vocabularies, in which, however, they all appear for convenience of reference.

The way in which the names of the different parts of the body come into place-names is very interesting and very instructive. A wise man, Heine I think, said that "the ego equals the non-ego," which means that man in his consciousness is equal to the whole world outside of himself—one of the most completely perfect statements ever put into words; meaning that man, in fact, takes and makes the outside world to be like himself, a sort of second self. This is, perhaps, the explanation for that the Gael gave the same names to the prominent features of nature as he gave to those of his own body—according as he saw resemblance. He calls one part or place **Ceann**, *a head* (which meets us in English forms as Ken-more, Kin-loch, &c.); another he calls **Claigionn**, *a skull*; **Aodann**, *a face*; **Sùil**, *an eye*; **Beul**, *a mouth*; **Teanga**, *a tongue*; **Cluas**, *an ear*; **Sròn**, *a nose*, "*knowe*"; **Mala**, *a brow*; **Amhach**, *the neck*; **Guala**, *the shoulder*; **Achlas**, *the arm-pit*; **Slinnein**, *the shoulder-blade*; **Uileann**, *the elbow*; **Ruighe**, *the forearm*; **Glac**,

*the hollow of the hand* ; so also **Druim**, *the back, back-bone* ; **Cliabh**, *the thorax* ; **Uchd**, *the breast* ; **Màm**, **Brù**, **Tòn**, **Cruachan**, **Sliasaid**, **Glùn**, **Calpa**, **Cas**, and others—all which are to be found in the vocabulary.

There is an important class of names ending in **-ach**, all of which are grammatically feminine nouns, and may be closely translated as *the place of* + the stem. Thus **giùbhsach** is **giubhas**, *fir*, + **ach**, *the fir-wood*, or the place where the *fir* grows. **Feàrnach** is **feàrna** + **ach**, *the alder-wood* ; so **Beitheach**, *the birch-wood* ; **Droighneach**, *the thorn-wood*, and others, named on trees and plants. Animals show in **Gamhnach**, *the place of stirks* ; **Caipleach**, *the place of horses* ; **Mucrach**, *the place of pigs*—from **gamhainn**, **capull**, **muc**. **Càrnach**, **Cluanach**, **Criadhach**, **Easach**, **Lianach**, **Pollanach**, **Sgornach**, **Socach**, express the nature of the land or soil. **Càrnach** is the place of the *cairns* or *stone-heaps* ; **Cluanach**, the place of *meadows* ; **Criadhach**, the place of *clay*, and so on.

Akin to these, and following the same lines, are forms in **-achan**—the diminutives of names in **-ach**. We find **Beitheachan** G., **Giùbhsachan**, **Raineachan** S., **Luachrachan** G.P., **Caorachan**, **Narachan** K. All these are grammatically masculine nouns because of the termination—**an**.

Of the same nature are many names in **-aig**, **-eig**, which are diminutive feminine nouns. **Clachaig**, **Creagaig**, **Driseig**, are from **clach**, **creag**, **dris** ; **Eachaig**, **Iolairig**, are from **each**, **iolair** ; **Grianaig**, **Claonaig**, **Crossaig**, are from **grian**, **claon**, **cross**. Names of this termination are not always easy to distinguish from



names of similar form that come by quite another way. The Norse *vík*, a creek or small bay, appears in Argyll as terminal *-aig*; for instance, **Ormaig**, **Alsaig**, **Askaig**, are clearly Norse, meaning *serpent-bay*, *eel-bay*, *ash-bay*. **Plocaig** and **Driseig** and **Dubhaig**, on the other hand, are simple Gaelic—from *ploc*, *dris*, and *dubh*. **Carsaig**, **Diseig**, and **Innseig**, are not so definite, but any difficulty that may arise in this way can be easily settled by local knowledge. If the place is on an inlet of the sea it is almost certain to be Norse—at least in the terminal part. It is found that as a rule, if one part of a name is Norse, the other part is; and it is so with Gaelic names also. There are exceptions, however, like **Coire-dail**, **Uamh-dail**, **Acha-fors**, which are distinctly Gaelic in the first part and Norse in the last. There is another very interesting check—a grammatical one. The Gaelic names of this termination are always feminine, but the Norse *vík*-names are grammatically masculine, even though *vík* itself is originally feminine. It seems that the grammatical agreement in such cases is with the first element rather than with the second, and that the name should be looked upon as a compound noun. We have **Ormsaig mór** and **beag A.**, a form which would be impossible if the terminal was Gaelic. We meet with instances of the same agreement in purely Gaelic names. **Cnoc-a'-stapuill mór** and **beag K.**, and **Creag-an-tairbh mór** and **beag I.** show it well. The former is simple—the adjective rightly agrees with **Cnoc**, or rather with **Cnoc-a'-stapuill**; the latter is very peculiar. The *whole* name is masculine, though the first element is feminine, and this for the very good reason that if the agreement of the adjective was with **Creag**, the right meaning of the name would be altogether changed.

The grammar of place-names is very instructive, but sometimes very troublesome. For full lists of these names, see p. 186.

**Aber**, which is so common in Pict-land, on the other side of Druim-Albain, is not met with in Argyll, unless we claim Lochaber. There is an **Apper** in Mull, but it stands for **Eabar**, *mud*. The word is, however, so interesting in itself and in its kinship that I have thought it well to include it. It is taken to mean a *confluence*, formed from the old preposition **ad** with **ber**, *to bring*, like Latin *af-fer-re*=*ad-ferre*, *to bring to* or *towards*. It is important, however, to observe that the Argyll pronunciation is **obair**, not **aber**, if the word is initial in a name; for instance, **obair-thairbh**, *Abertarff*. This would seem to offer a suggestion that the word may really be made up of **od**+**ber**, meaning *outflow*, and good confirmation comes from **Comar**=**com**+**ber**, which is without doubt the true *con-fluence*. It is not likely that two words of different forms would start out from the same origin at the same time to express or describe the same thing. The correct explanation would, therefore, seem to be that this **aber**, or preferably **obair**, is really the *out-bear* and the opposite of **inbher**, the *in-bear*, and that **Comar** from the same source was and is the **com**+**ber**, *the bringing-together* of rivers or streams—that is, the point or place at which the waters meet. It will be found that this explanation always fits the actual natural conditions. The word **amar**, *the channel of a river*, does not seem to belong to this family of names.

The adjective **Ard**, *high*, which occurs very often, may come at the beginning or at the end of names. Modern usage puts it at the end, the older language had it at the beginning, e.g. **Dun-ard**, **Ard-airidh**.

The noun, **Àrd, Àird**, which also is very common, usually comes first in a name—**Àrd-namuruchan, Àird-ghobhar, Àrd-nahua, Àrdincaple, Àrdmaddy**. It is almost certain that in all these and in all such, it would be more correct to write and to say **àird** always. There are, of course, reasons for the difference in form, but more is lost than is gained by the deference to physiological convenience which entails the change.

There is an **-art, -airt**, coming at the end of names which some have thought to be the same word as **àird** always, but this is open to doubt. There is nothing in Gaelic or in the Gaelic method that can explain the name **Call-art**, for example, but it can be readily and consistently explained from the Norse **kald-r-jart**, *cold land*, the **-jart** being of the same origin as the English word *earth*. Some others have thought that all these **-arts** or **-iorts** stand for the Norse word **fjodr**, *a frith*—the **f** being aspirated out by the Gaelic influence. There can be no doubt that this is true to a good extent, but that it is true all the way is by no means certain. **Suain-eart**, as *Sweyn's fiord*, seems to be quite clearly Norse, but **Du(bh)-airt**, for instance, is as clearly Gaelic.

There are, then, four words which should be kept in mind, namely, **Àrd**, the adjective; **Àrd** and **Àird**, the noun; **fjodr**, the Norse *fiord*; and **-jort, -jart**, *land, or a district*. There is, too, the word **àird**, *point of the compass*, as in **àird-an-iar**, *the West*, to which the Scots word "airt" is so closely related in form and usage as to prove it almost certainly to be one and the same word. The kinship of these again is with the Teutonic forms (Nor. *jord*, Ger. *erde*), rather than with the Gaelic forms starting from **àrd**.

**Aoineadh.**—This is one of the many words in Gaelic names which the English language cannot convey. The only right and sufficient explanation of the name is to see the place. It is, as nearly as it can be put, a rocky front rising sheer from the sea ; but every such front is not always named **Aoineadh**. The name usually takes the form **Innie** in English, and it seems to be akin to the Norse *Enni*, *the forehead*.

**Aonach**, a *moor*, *heath*, or *high-ground*, is also a very difficult word to translate. The main idea is that of a good stretch of high, or rather say hill-ground ; and whether it is level or a slope does not seem to make a difference. It must, however, be a good stretch of such ground, and not cultivated, to be an **Aonach**.

**Bàrr** is met with often standing alone, as well as in combinations. The word has a wide range of meaning, from the *point* of a needle, the *tip* of the finger, staff, &c., to the *top* of the head or of trees, and of the *head* of growing crops. It was used of the "head of hair" in old personal names, *e.g.* St. Findbarr = *White-head*. The idea is the same always, and it is not difficult to follow it into the *uplands*, to which it is now most commonly applied as a place-name. It seems to convey the sense of *an arable upland* nearly always.

**Caigean** means *a couple* (of animals)—a pair of animals coupled by means of a wooden instrument which fixed their heads together. It was specially used for the taming of wild goats. Dr. Macbain's derivation is **con** + **ceann**, *heads-together*. The use of the word as a place-name must be from the resemblance of some natural features to such coupling. The name occurs in Morven, and **Caichean** occurs in Mull. It is difficult to say whether or not they are one and the same word.

**Caipleach** (see names in *-ach*, p. 8) means the place of the **capuill**, or *horses*. **Capull** was a masculine noun in its beginning like the Latin *Caballus*, but in later days it has come to mean *a mare* always, although strangely enough even now the grammar of the word is masculine and not feminine. We say **Capull mór**, *a big mare*, as we say **Each mór**, *a big horse*, the adjective being masculine in both. This is a very interesting survival. Long after the word became, and has remained feminine, its masculine origin is asserted by its grammatical bonds.

**Caiseal** has more than one possible meaning in names: (1) *a bulwark or castle* (from Lat. *castellum*); (2) *a hurdle-wall, or a mound in a river for fishing*; and (3) as **Caisleach** or **Caslach** (Cassley), *a ford*. We have in Islay a double form **Atha-caisil**.

**Camus**, *a small round bay*, from **cam**, *bent or roundly crooked*. This is one of the few Gaelic sea-names; such names are largely Norse—**òb**, **geodha**, **bodha**, **sgeir**, &c.

**Càrnach**, a frequent name, is from **càrn**, *a heap of stones, a cairn*. (See names in *-ach*, p. 8).

**Ceapach**, frequent in the English form **Keppoch**, has been said to refer back to an old Keltic **keppo**, *a garden*, akin to the Greek *κήπος* of similar meaning, but this is doubtful. It is clearly a Gaelic name in *-ach*, with **ceap** as the stem. **Ceap** has various meanings, but always in one direction, such as *a clod, block, stump*; or **Ceapach**, the adjective, is given as "*abounding in stumps or trunks of trees*" (H. S. D.). I am inclined to refer the name to the *cloddy* character of such lands as are so named.

**Cleit**, *a rocky eminence*, usually by the sea, comes from Norse **klettr**, *a cliff*.

**Comarach**, *a sanctuary*, or place of safety, looks as if it might be related to **Comar**, *a confluence*, and this is not

impossible. The old "Sanctuaries" may have been situated at Comars by choice or accident; but the old forms of the language do not encourage this origin of the name. **Comairche** is the old word for *protection* generally, but in later times it got specialised to the "Sanctuary" of a place of worship to which accused persons might flee for refuge, as to the old Hebrew city (Num. xxxv. 12). The root idea in the word is *arc, defend*, which we have in *adh-arc, a horn*, and in *treasaing = to + ess + arc, save*.

**Corpach** is from *corp* (Lat. *corpus*), *a body*. There is a Corpach in Lochaber and in Jura; and I have it from intelligent natives of both places that the name came from the fact that *corpses* on the way to burial—in the one case to **Eilean Fhianain** in Loch Shiel, and in the other to Colonsay—were rested temporarily at these places, because of weather or of time and distance. There is a Corparsk (l) in C. which looks like the same name.

**Corran** is a diminutive formed from *còrr*, *excess, outgrowth*. The name is applied to small, blunt promontories at which the tidal current runs swift. Some have thought that the name has had origin from **Corran**, *a sickle*, and the shape of the various Corrans helped to support this view; so far as the *word* is, however, concerned, this must be given up, but as regards *the fact*, being descriptive, the error, if it is an error, is still a help. There is, indeed, no reason apparent why the two words may not have had a common origin. It is the same root we find in **Corr-ag**, *the thumb*.

**Doire**, *a grove*. The old form was *daire* (Derry), coming by the same way as *dar-ach*, *oak*, which itself is the genitive of old *dair*. The tree-names of early language are very mixed. The Latin *larix* and the

English *larch* are, in fact, the same words as the Gaelic **darach**, and the word *tree* itself is perhaps from the same source.

**Doirlinn**, *an isthmus*, or rather a neck of shore which the tide leaves dry at ebb. These are numerous. The elements in the word are **do** + **air** + **ling**, from an old verb **lingim**, *I jump*, or *spring*, from which **leum**, *a jump*, perhaps because the tide came in so quickly as to *jump* over the place.

**Druim** (Lat. *Dorsum*), *a back, ridge*. The word has many meanings, or rather say values. **Druim-Albain**, **Druim-uachdair**, and such, are very large *dorsums*, but between them and the many and small Drum-begs there is a long gradation. There is a **Tigh an droma** in Islay; but it is, in a sense, a small affair compared with the **Tigh an droma** which stands on *the back-bone of Scotland*—upon **Druim Albain**. The essential meaning is, however, always the same.

**Faodhail**, a hollow in the sandy shore, retaining a considerable quantity of water after the tide has gone back. There are some good examples in North Ardnarmurchan and in Islay. The word has taken a peculiar shape in the name Benbecula, which stands for **Beinn na faodh'la**. It seems to mean *a ford* also, and perhaps that is its value in this last name. This is a very good example of a word, the clear significance of which cannot be determined through philology, but only by the facts and circumstances of its position as a name.

**Gart**, **Gort**, and the diminutive **Goirtean** are of the same origin as the English *gard-en* and *garth*, an enclosure. It has nearly the same meaning at the beginning of names as **-garry** has at the end. The Norse is *gardr*, *an enclosure*. The Gaelic order has it first in compound

names as **Gart an doill**, *the blind man's enclosure*, or patch of land ; **Goirtean Mhuirrein S.**, *Murrin's enclosure* ; the Norse has it second, as **Olosary M.**, **Kynagarry I.**, Olaf's farm and Queen's town.

The nearest value of the present usage is *a fallow upland field*, or a field or once-enclosed ground now gone out of cultivation, even if there is no enclosure now. In the old language **fér-gort**, *a grass-garden*, and **luib-gort**, *herb-garden*, are met with, which suggests that the two ideas of enclosure and cultivation are contained in the word.

**Leacann** is applied to a hillside, from a portion of which the earth has been washed away, exposing a smooth surface of flat rock. The stem of the name is without doubt **leac**, *a flag-stone*, although it has been referred to **leac**, *a cheek*—a word with which I am not familiar. It seems to occur in the older language. The old form was **lec**. There was another word **lecht**, which meant *a grave*, according to Stokes, Windisch, and others—trusting, as would seem, to Cormac's Glossary. **Leac** is, however, the most common name for the headstone of a grave (usually *a slab* of slate or of freestone), and it is the name especially for the slab that covers a grave. So when Stokes translates **relicc lechtaig**, Mod. **reilig leacaich**, *of a grave-abounding cemetery*, one wonders whether he might not have come nearer the verbal meaning if he had put *grave-slab* instead of *grave*. It is, at any rate, quite certain that in the later language there is only one word, namely, **leac**, *a slab of*, or *a flat stone*, and that the other **leac** and **lecht**, if they ever had independent existence, are now lost, or merged in the remaining word.

**Learg**, *the slope of a hill-side*, gives **Leargach K.**, which



has been softened to Largie, in Kintyre especially. It occurs also as Largy and Larki; and in the Isle of Man as Largee, Lhargee, Largy. A good deal of this seeming softening of the terminal is due to the Locative form of the names.

There is another word **Làirig**, of closely the same meaning, the form in **-ach** of which would give these softened forms more readily, but I have not met with it.

There is a Lorgie K., but I prefer to take this from the form in **-ach** of **lorg**, *the footprint* of an animal, or a *path*.

**Machair**, *a field, carse*, either by analogy with Largie, or from its own genitive in **-ach**, has also taken the softened form—**Machri-hanish**, **Machri-mór** and **-beag**, K.

**Maol** is primarily the Gaelic adjective *bald*, though it is almost always used as a noun in place-names. The Norse **mul-r**, *a jutting crag*, takes the same form **maol** in Gaelic, and is frequent on the sea-coast. It may not always be easy to distinguish the one from the other, but local knowledge will give the necessary light. The Gaelic word carries the idea of bluntness and roundness of shape, especially in the names of inland mountains. The two words have merged in their grammar, both being feminine nouns in the later Gaelic, although the Norse word was originally masculine.

**Morbhach**, *land over which the high tide comes*; literally **muir** + **magh**, or *sea-field*—a level stretch of land from which the sea has receded, but over which exceptionally high tides may come. Such land is covered with the short green grass and herbage characteristic of sea-land. Another sea-word, **Muireach**, has been confused with **morbhach**; but they are certainly different words. Mr. Moore, in his "Manx Names," says that for the

Mooragh at Ramsey the best rendering is *the shingle bank*, and with this I am disposed to agree, from what I know of places so named myself.

**Peighinn**, literally *a penny*, in names always means *a penny-land*, and Lephin (**leth-pheighinn**), *a half-penny-land*, as in Pennygown (**Peighinn a' ghobhainn**), *the smith's penny-land*; and Lephincorrach, *the steep, rugged, half-penny-land*. The old land-names are very interesting. The names in the West of Scotland were the Davoch, which contained twenty penny-lands, and the Tirung, *the Ounce-land*, which came by the Norseman, whose standard measure of land value was *an ounce* of silver (*eyrir*). We meet with *terra unciata* constantly in old charters. The Tirung was nearly of the same size as the Davoch, for it contained eighteen or twenty penny-lands, which were so called because under the Norwegian rule each homestead paid a penny as **scat** or tax.

**Ceathramh** and **ochdamh** are also land-measures which come frequently into names, the one meaning *a quarter* of a Davoch, the other *an eighth*, coming into English form as Kera, Kirrie, Oct, Ocht, &c.

The whole subject of old land values and measures stands in need of correct investigation—and deserves it.

**Rath** is an old Gaelic name for *a stronghold*, or for a "residence," which in these early times evidently had to be well protected. It is common in Gaelic place-names, but more so in Ireland than in Scotland. It is found far away in the Gaulish names, *Argento-ratus*, *silver-town*. Cormac says it was "a circular earthen fort." There is an extremely interesting note in "S. T."—quoted from Curry: "A Dun is an elevated circular enclosing wall or bank, within which a dwelling-house was erected. A Dun required to be surrounded by a wet fosse or

trench to distinguish it from the Rath, which had no trench."

**Ruighe**, a *sheiling* (H. S. D.), the *outstretched base of a mountain* (Mb), is almost certainly from the same origin as **ruighe**, the *fore-arm*, and the infinitive **ruighe-achd**, to *reach*; hence, a *stretch* of high or of low ground to which cattle were sent in the summer-time to graze. There is not much difference in meaning between this word and **àiridh**, for we meet with **Àiridh-shamhraidh** and **Ruighe-samhraidh** in almost equal numbers. The **àiridh** points to a high ground always, the **ruighe** to the low ground.

**Ros**, a *promontory*, "a point extending into the sea or into a lake" (C. 141). It means a *wood* also. In one place it means the one, in other places the other, and it has been suggested that the word may have originally and essentially meant a *wood-covered promontory*. There is many a **Ros** that is not wooded, but most of them are. There is a **Coille-ros**, in Kilmaillie, which must mean the *wooded Ros*—a very correct description, although the form of the name is not familiar Gaelic; so there is a possibility that the modern **Coille**, a *wood*, has been prefixed to an old **ros**, meaning the same thing—a process that is very common in the names of England, and which is not unknown in Gaelic; for instance, **Atha-Caisil** (Islay). The Ross of Mull is a woodless promontory; **Coille-ros**, in Kilmaillie, is a wood without much promontory—but "*promontorium nemorosum*" remains the nearest meaning of the true **Ros**. The two ideas are contained in the word—to the native understanding.

**Sàilean** is **sàil-linne**, according to H. S. D., but this is not tenable. The grammar is against it. **Linne** being feminine would with the article be **an t-sàil-linne**, which

is never heard. It is an *sàilean* always—in masculine form. The stem is of course *sàile*, *the sea* or *sea-water*, and the name comes on exactly the same lines as *clach-an*, *sèileach-an*, &c. Strangely enough, there is a *Sàilean* on Loch Shiel where there is no *sàile*. I must not risk any speculation upon the name, but it is extremely interesting.

**Stalla**, "*an overhanging, shelving, beetling precipice*"—another of the words which cannot be fittingly translated. It seems to be the Norse word *stall-r*, *a block*, or *shelf*, upon which another thing rests, and this idea closely accords with the nature of the places so named. In Ardnamurchan we meet with a very interesting old plural form, *na Stallacha dubha*, *the black stallas*, one sight of which would explain the word far better than any statement in words that can possibly be given. Tier upon tier of shelving rocks is the picture and the fact in the name.

**Tairbeart**, usually translated *an isthmus*, means more than that. The word is made up of *tar*+*bert*, the preposition *tar*, *across*, and *ber*, *to carry*, *bear*—quite close to the meaning of the Latin *trans-fer*. It is the isthmus over which, in early times, the people used to drag their boats from sea to sea. An isthmus need not be a Tarbert, but it is not likely that it would become a Tarbert were it not an isthmus. A look of the various Tarberts even on the map will explain them all at once. Although the name is Gaelic—old Gaelic—there may be a suspicion that it had origin in fact, though not in language, from the Norseman. When the "Western Isles" were conceded to Magnus of Norway in the end of the eleventh century, Kintyre was included in the "Isles" because he *sailed round it* by carrying his boats across

the Tarbert. I have not been able to make sure if Tarbert was so named before this event, but it certainly was afterwards. It may be so with other Tarberts also. As to the meaning and signification there can be no doubt.

**Leth**, a *half*, comes into place-names in interesting ways. **Leith-ead** is a *brae*, usually not facing another brae, and **leideag** is the diminutive of this = **leathad-ag**. Then **Leitir**, a very common name (Eng. *Letter*), is for **leth-tir**, *half-land*—always perfectly descriptive, meaning a hill-side *without* another opposite. **Leth-allt** is a single Burn, where, for natural reasons, two might be looked for ; so also **Leth-bheinn**, *half-mountain*, where there is a felt want of another. There are many other such words and names. In body-part names, which are also extended to the land, the word comes in very interestingly, and as a very good side-light upon the general names just mentioned. **Leth-cheann** is *half-head*, or a *cheek* ; **Leth-shuil** is *one-eye* (lit. *half-eye*) ; **Leth-lamh** (ach) is a man with only *one arm* ; **Leth-chas** is (having only) *one foot*. It is the same idea throughout.

## THE DISTRICT NAMES

IN this chapter I examine the several districts of the county from Kintyre northwards, and I shall keep as closely as I can to the following order :—

I. An examination of the meaning of the district name.

II. A reference to the English names in the district.

III. Observations upon peculiarities of the grammar of Gaelic names, and upon difficult names.

IV. Norse Names.

V. Church-Names.

VI. Personal Names.

The names which I have classed as “difficult” are not all of them difficult ; but even the easier of them are such as I have thought to be worthy of a special note. Some are, of course, difficult in the fullest sense, and a few, I fear, are quite hopeless—at any rate, they are beyond me, for the present.

The simple Gaelic names, and those plainly Norse, can be easily determined from the vocabularies.

### KINTYRE—CINN-TÌRE

I. This is a purely Gaelic name. It means Land’s-end, like French *Finisterre* = Lat. *Finis-terræ*. The **Cinn** is a case form of **ceann**, a *head*, Point, or *end*, and **-tìre** is the genitive of **tìr**, *land*. The form **Cinn** has been called the locative case, because it is only met with in

place-names, such as Kintra = **Cinn-tràgha** A., Kintgairloch = **Cinn a' gheàrr loch** V., Kingussie = **Cinn a' ghiùbhsaich**, Kintail = **Cinn t-sàile**.

The treatment given by the Survey to the names of Kintyre is as bad as it is conceivably possible for bad work to be. It is altogether most contorted and ignorant and careless. There is hardly a name right. The Gaelic names are hopelessly bad in spelling and in grammar. Cockalane and Pollywillin are comically stupid renderings of **Cnoc-àlainn** and **Poll a' mhuilinn**. Rhu-point and Pluck-point and Eden = **aodan** show pure ignorance; Achabrad and Achavraid, Gartavaich and Achavae, Achaluskin and Gartloskin, for **Achadh-bràghad** and **Achadh-bhràghaid**, **Gart a' bhàthaich** and **Achadh a' bhàthaich**, **Achadh-losgainn** and **Gart-losgainn**, within short distances of each other, show extreme carelessness.

II. ENGLISH NAMES come in two ways—as original names like Campbeltown, Carolina, &c., or as translations, like Pointhouse, Oatfield, Whinhill, Todhill, and the like. This class of names will not have much attention. It is to be distinctly regretted that translations have ever been attempted or permitted. The old Gaelic names were poetical; the translations are not. It is, however, fortunate that the Survey could only translate the very simplest names, which might even now, and with advantage, be restored. The old names they could not understand nor translate, and these therefore remain.

#### DIFFICULT NAMES

III. For purposes of reference and of local interest and because the local circumstances are more clearly in

my own view, I have thought well to deal with "difficult" names in smaller areas than full districts, when I have thought it necessary, and I put the names in alphabetical order. I mention the Norse and Church-names.

Crossie, Hervie, Largie, Lorgie, Machrie, and such, are forms that are almost peculiar to Kintyre. They all look like diminutives, but they really are not, at any rate not always, as may be seen under **Learg** (p. 16).

NORSE NAMES are also numerous. All the **-dal**, or **-dale** names, are clearly Norse: **Borgadale** = *Fort-dale*, **Cattadale** = *Cat-dale*, **Saddell** = *Sand-dale*, **Torris dale** = *Thor's-dale*. These, with such as **Ormsary**, **Skipness**, **Cleit**, &c., are all plain; but still, Norse names present many difficulties.

CHURCH-NAMES are very frequent, more so indeed than in any other district, and more so than in any other part of Scotland. The reason for this will be apparent from the special chapter on these names.

The LAND-NAMES, especially in South Kintyre, are very interesting. There is the Pennyland and Pennygown and Pennysearach, and Peninver, with Lephincorrach, Lephingaver, and Lephinstrath. There is also Kerran, Kerafuair, Keramenach, and Deucheran, all which are explained in their place.

#### (1) FROM THE SOUTH TO CAMPBELTOWN

**Amod** is not a common name, but it occurs twice in K. It is applied to a green plain almost encircled by the bend of a river, or perhaps better to the meeting of two waters = N. **á-mot**, *river meet-ing*.

**Achincorvey** = *achadh na-cairbhe* (*note*).

**Achinhoan** = *achadh nan uan*, *lamb-field*.



**Arinarach** = àiridh nathrach (nathair).

**Arinascavach** = àiridh na sgabhach = àiridh + sgabh, *sawdust*.

**Ballygreggan** and **Ballygroggan** are Survey renderings of **Bail' a' chreagain** and **Bail' a' chrògain** (creag and cròg).

**Breackerie** is for **breac** + àiridh and **Breacklate** for **breac** + leathad (pp. 19, 21).

**Brunerican** is part Norse part Gaelic—**Brun** (N), the *brow*, or *brae*, of **Eric**, with the Gaelic dim. -an added.

**Carrine**, with **caibeal Carrine**, seems to refer to St. Ciaran.

**Carskie** = **craskie** (crasg), with the loc. ending (see **Crasg** and **Learg**).

**Chiscan** = sescenn, *boggy land*.

**Christlach**, **Cristalloch** (1695). Eng. *crystal* + **ach**.

**Colydrain** seems to be **coille-droighinn**, *thornwood*; but in Manx names a similar form is derived from **Kuldl-rani**, *Cold-hill*, where **rani** means *a hog-backed hill*.

**Corylach** is **coire-chlach**, *stoney-corrie*, or, even better, **coire** + **lach**. See p. 27.

**Culanlongairt** is clearly all of it Gaelic; still it is difficult. **Cùl** is certainly *the back*, **an** is *of*, the gen. sing. masc. of the article, and **long** would seem to be *a ship* + **art**, one of the "arts" (p. 11). But, strangely enough, in old Gaelic, there is a word **longphort**, that through "attrition" might come to this form of **Longairt**, which has been explained (glossed) as "*castrum*," *a camp*, or *fort*, and there is, in fact, a "fort" in close proximity to the name in K. The supreme scholar in our time, not only of Gaelic but of all languages, has failed with the word, and I do not venture to be conclusive. It may be mentioned, however, in this connection, that there are

several inland names in K. which look like Norse sea-words—for instance, *lang-a*, *sker-oblin*, *skernish*, and most likely this was a coast name in its beginning.

**Currach** is a level plain, a marsh, bog, or fen. It has come latterly to be applied to a *race-course*, but this is because it is a level plain, and not for any connection with racing.

**Dàvaar** (island), which has been thought difficult to explain, is in my opinion certainly Gaelic = **dà bhàrr** = **dà**, *two*, and **bàrr**, which is explained at p. 12. The real difficulty is in finding the reason for the name. I suggest one of the following two reasons as probable: (1) that the island shows, as I am told, two points, or rather say prominences, on its summit, especially as viewed from the sea side; and (2) that the island may have been named with reference to two Barrs, features or names, on the mainland opposite to it. This is a very common way of naming islands—compare Eilean Ghrianain, named on Grianan on land opposite—and if I could find two such Barrs I would favour this explanation; but, though Barr-askomill is there quite fittingly, I cannot find the other; whether it is there, or was there in the past but is not now, I am not able to say.

**Feòrlan** is one of the land-names (p. 18). **Feòirling** is a *farthing*, therefore a *farthing-land*. The H. S. D. has **feòrlinn**, *the fourth part of a farm*, but this rendering is doubtful.

**Feòchaig** is based upon the stem of **feòch-àdan**, *the corn-thistle* (see names in -aig, p. 8).

**Gartnagerach** (see **gart** and **geàrr**).

**Beinn Ghùilean** is most likely from **gualann**, *shoulders*.

**Glecknahavil** = **glac na sabhal**, or perhaps better **glac an t-sabhail**, with irregular Agreement.

**Glemanuil** is not easy. **Glem** is not Gaelic, although the other parts seem to be. It may be a metathesis of **Gleann-amail** (*note*).

**Glenhervie** = **gleann** + **thairbhidh** (**tarbh**).

**Glenahanty** = **gleann** + **shean-tighe**, *the glen* (of) *the Old-house*.

**Gleann na muclach** is *the Glen of the pig-kind*. **Muc** is a *pig* (or a boar), and **-lach** is a termination, meaning an aggregate or collection of the entities represented in the stem, for example, **teaghlach**, *a family* = **teg**, *a house* + **lach**, therefore *a household*, so with **òglach** = **òg**, *young* (men) + **lach**, &c. It is interesting to observe the frequency of the **muc**-names in Argyll—possibly suggesting the time when the “wild boar” was there.

**Keprigan** has same stem as in Keppoch (p. 13) + **air-ag-an**. **Ceapair** is “a piece” of oatcake on which the butter is spread thick and generous, in fact the best of the kind was spread with the thumb, “in heaps;” and with an equally generous super-stratification of brown sugar, it has been known not to hurt the feelings of hungry boys.

**Remuil** = **ruighe** + **maol**.

**Sanish**, in Loch Sanish, Machrihanish, is from **sean-innse**, *Old-inch* or *haugh*. **Sanas**, *a whisper*, or *warning*, is possible, but the former is correct.

**Rudha-stathish** contains the same Norse stem as in Staffa and Dunstaffnish. The **-ish** is for **nes**, with a Gaelic inflection of the genitive.

**Trodigal** is difficult. It is not Gaelic. It was Tradi-gill in 1695, and may therefore mean **tródl** + **gill**, *the pen* (fold) *ravine*.

IV. The NORSE NAMES in this part are somewhat mixed. **Borgadale** (the “Fort” is there) is pure Norse =

*Fort-dale*. So is *Cattadale*, *Carradale*, *Ormsary*; but *Glen-á-dale*, *Loch-oro-dale*, *Skerry Fell fada*, *Drum-lemble*, *Glen-ramskill*, are mixtures. *Glen-á-dale* shows a very common form of hybrid word and name. The Glen may have been called *gleann*, long before the Norseman came. It may have been even called *Gleann-abhann*, *Glenavon*. When the Norseman came he called the glen *á-dale*, or Riverdale; when he left, the native reverted to his Glen, but kept the whole Norse form along with it, not understanding, nor perhaps at all thinking, of the meaning of these things.

V. CHURCH-NAMES are Keil (high and low), Kilblaan = *Cill-Bhlathain* (p. 175), Kilchrist = *Cill-Chriosd*, Kilchattan = *Cill-Chatain* (p. 175), Kilkivan and St. Coivin's Chapel = *Cill-Chaomhain* (p. 183), Kildavie is the Kil of David, Kilellan is *Cill-Ellain*, Kileonain is *Cill-Adhamhnain* (p. 179), Kilkerran is *Cill-Chiarain* (p. 170) Kilmashanachan (p. 184), Kilwhipnach seems to be named upon one of the old "Flagellants," Killypole is not a *cill* but *coille*, a *wood*.

VI. The only Personal Names are Johnstone's Point and Tir-Fergus = Fergus' land, and Rudha MacShannuich. I cannot, of course, give the origin of these, no more than I am likely to be able to give the origin of a good many such names that will meet us. Campbeltown was so named in 1680 as a compliment to the Argyll family.

## (2) CAMPBELTOWN TO CARRADALE

II. TRANSLATIONS are frequent: Hillside, Sealrock, Thornisle, Westport, Whitehill, Whitestone. Backs and Craigs are *bac* and *creag*, with the English plural form in *s*; Moy is quasi-English for *magh*, a *field*.

III. The GAELIC NAMES are very badly done. I prefer to recast them than to explain them at length.

**Achalochy** = *achadh-locha, loch-field*, not *Lòchy*.

**Ardnacross** = *ard na croise, the aird of the Cross*.

**Aross** (see N.), likely an imported name. There is no *river* here; but *àros* is Gaelic for *a dwelling*.

**Ballivain** = *bail' a' mheadhoin, middle-town*.

**Bealochgair** = *bealach-gèarr, the short pass*.

**Breckachy** = *breac-achadh, the spotted field*.

**Bunlarie** = *bun làrach*—in loc. form.

**Callyburn**, or **Killipole**, clearly for *coille*, not for *cill*. Although both forms are corrupt, the one explains the other in a very interesting way.

**Carrick** (Point) = *carraig, a rock*.

**Clackfin** (Glen) = *clach-fionn, white-stone*.

**Clochkel** = *clach gheal, white-stone* also.

**Crossiebeg** = *an crossadh beag, the small crossing*.

**Darlochan** seems to refer to *Durry* = *doire, a grove* which is close by, therefore *doire-lochan*. Of course *dàir* is possible, and even *eadar*; and if there were two lochans I should prefer this last.

**Drumgarve** = *druim garbh, the rough Druim*.

**Easach** (Hill) = *eas, a waterfall* + *ach* (p. 8).

**Gartgunnal** = *gàrt + dhuineil (note)*.

**Gobagrenan** = *gob a' ghrianain (grian)*.

**Lagalgorve** = N. *lag-r-voll-r + garbh*.

**Langa** would do for Norse *langa + á, long river*, or *langa + ey*, if an island. It is most likely a late and imported name, like say *Carolina*, and has no local significance; but it may refer to *Barr Water* which certainly is a *long river*.

**Leckyvroun** = *leac a' bhròin (flat) stone of lamentation!*

**Maol a' chùir** (Hill-names).

**Peninver** = **Peighinn an inbhir**, *the Inver penny-land*.

**Puball** (Burn) = *tent-burn*.

**Putachan**, **Putachantuy**, **Corr-putachan**, are all from **put**, *a young moor-fowl*, akin to *pullet*, and Fr. *poulet* + **achan** (p. 8). The **an** in the first and third names is the diminutive, but **an** in the second name is the gen. article, with **suidhe**, *a sitting*, or *sitting-place*, so that *-antuy* = **an t-suidhe**. **Cnoc-suidhe** is quite near.

**Sgreadan** (hill) = **sgriodan** = N. *skrlða*.

**Skeroblin**, **Skeroblingarry**, **Skeroblinraid**—I am not able to explain satisfactorily (*note*).

**Strathdugh** (Water), rightly **srath dubh**.

**Tangy** = Norse *tangi*, *a tongue* of land, but the Gaelic **teanga** would do as well.

IV. **Bàrr-askomill**, **Carradale**, **Gleann-Iussa**, **Guesdale**, **Ifferdale**, **Rhonadale**, **Torrisdale**, **Smerby**, **Ugadale** (High and Low) are, as indicated, Norse.

V. Church-names are Killarrow (p. 174), **Cill-Chàmaig** (p. 171), Kildonald, Kilkenzie = **Cill Choinnich** (p. 171), Kilmaho = **Cill mo Choe** (p. 181), **Kilmaluag** (p. 179), and Kilmichael. Killocrew and Killagruar are **Coille Chnò** and **Coill' a' ghrùthair**, the *Nut-wood* and the *Brewer's-wood*.

VI. Personal Names.—Port Corbet, **Cnoc Eoghain** (p. 32), and Mac-Cringan's Point. The last is **Rudha Mhic Naomhain**, MacNiven's Point. It is the sequence of **c** and **n** that brings out the **r** in the Survey form given. **Cnò** is in Gaelic always *pr. Crò*. See Killocrew above.

### (3) CARRADALE TO TARBERT

In this part the names are distinctly clearer and less troublesome.

II. Names like Queenhill, Rockfield, Scotmill, Stewart-

field, are either English names or translations. Braids is Gaelic **bràghad** with the English plural.

III. **Achinadrian** = **achadh nan droigheann**.

**Achinafaud** = **achadh nam fòd** (see **fàd**).

**Achavae** = **achadh a' bhàthaich**, *byre-field*.

**Achnancarranan** = **achadh + nan**, gen. pl. of Article + **carran**, *spurrey* + an unnecessary plural ending **-an**.

**Achenrioch** = **achaidhean** (pl.) **riabhach**.

**Altgalvalsh** = **allt gailbheach** (?), *furious-stream*.

**Ballachroy** = **Baile a' chruidh** (see **crodh**), or, perhaps better **Bealach ruadh** (F.).

**Beachmore** = **Beitheach mhór** (**beithe**).

**Cour** (and Bay and Island), see Hill-names.

**Deucheran** = **diùbh chea(th)r(amhn)an** (**ceathramh**).

**Eascairt** and **Eascaird** = **eas + ag + àird**.

**Freasdal**, compare Glen Risdell = **gleann-fhreasdail**.

**Garrachroit** = **garbh**, *rough* + **croit**, *a croft*.

**Garveoline** = **gàradh** (*garth*) **Bheòlain** (*note*).

**Grogport** is English. I do not know the history.

**Kirnashie**—is this the beautiful **Coire na sìth** of Gaelic tales; it looks like it—the *fairy corrie*, or the *corrie of peace*!

**Laoghscan** (**Cnoc**) = **laoighcìonn** (*note*).

**Leamnamuic** is for **leum na muice**, *the pig's jump*.

**Leanagboyach** = **lianag bhòidheach**.

**Refluuch** = **ruighe fliuch**, *the wet ruighe* (p. 19).

**Reileiridhe** = **ruighe + léiridh** (*note*).

**Ronachan** = **ròn**, *a seal* + **achan** (p. 8).

**Skible** (Glen) is N. **Skip-bol**, *ship-town* — in the vicinity of Skip-ness = N. **skipa-nes**.

**Taychromain** = **tigh a' chromain** (**crom**).

**Taynchoisin** = **tigh an chòisin**, *little cave*.

**Taynloan** = **tigh an lòin** (**lòn**).

**Tayntruan** = **tigh an t-sruthain**.

**Toitdubh** = N. *toft*, a clearing + Gael., **dubh**, or perhaps better, **doid**, a croft, + **dubh** (F.).

IV. The purely Norse names are **Crubasdal**, perhaps **Crossalg**, **Dirigadal**, **Muasdale**, **Rhonadale**, **Skipness**, **Sunadale**, **Ulgadal**; but a' **Chlelt**, **Rhu-na-haoir-ine**, **Point**, and **T-alla-toll** are mixed with Gaelic. **Rhunahaoirine Point**, for instance = G  lic **rudha**, a point + **na** + N. **eyrr**, a gravelly beach, with a double Gaelic genitive ending **-in + e**. This is a most instructive name. Its growth must have been somewhat as follows:—(1) Whatever the old name was, when the Norseman came he called the Point **eyr-r**, the gravelly or sandy beach. (2) When he left, the Gaelic inhabitants, recognising that the place was a Point, and being familiar with the Norse name, they prefixed their own **Rudha**, from which would come **Rudha na h-eyrr** + their own necessary genitive termination **-in**, and later still they added the final **e** which the gen. fem. of the language seeks after, although in long names it is commonly dropped. As a matter of fact, the name is always spoken as **Rudha na h-aoirinn**, without the terminal **e**. Later still the name of the sea-Point was transferred to a land farm, and when the English Survey-man came, he named the promontory upon the farm, and called it **Rhunahaoirine Point**.

V. **Balnakill** = **baile na cille** (with clachan), **Kilberry** = **Cill-Bhairre** (p. 172), **Kilchamaig**, **Killeen** = **Cill-Sheathain**, and **Kilmichael** = **Cill-Mhicheil**, are all the Church-names.

VI. The only new name apart from Church-names is in **Eilean Eoghain**, which has been explained to mean "well-born," like Gr. *εὐγένης*.



## (4) GIGHA (ISLAND)

I. The name of the island is Norse, *gja + ey, rift-island*.

II. There are a few English names, like Highfield and Newhouse, which are probably translations. There is a good example of a *dòirlinn* between the Island and *Eilean garbh*; of *gamhna, stirks*, as applied to *island rocks*, north of the Island; and of a Tarbert between the northern portion and the southern and larger part of the island.

III. *Airdaily* = *àird + àillidh, beautiful*.

*Allaidhe* (Port), *the stranger's port, or harbour*. The root in the word is *th-all, over, or across sea, or foreign*. It occurs in *Madadh-allaidh, fierce, or foreign, dog*—the wolf; and in *All-mhurach, across-sea man, foreigner*. Every foreigner was fierce and wild to the native "conceit." We made *Brahma*, the god of the Indian, our *Bramain, the devil*, and that the same faculty is exercised nearer home "is muckle pity."

*Drumyeon* = *druim eoin* (*eun, a bird*), or personal name, *Eoin, John*.

*Ghlamaidh* (*Meall a'*) and *Ardlamey* = *Àird a' ghlamaidh*, from *glam, devour, gobble*.

*Kinerarach* = *cinn + ear, east, + ar-ach*.

*Sgiathain* (Port an), figurative from *sgiath, a wing*.

IV. *Acha-mhinish, Cath-sgeir, Gròb-bagh* are mixed Norse. *Cara* and *Craro* also are almost certainly Norse. *Gigalum* (island) is peculiar = *gja + holm-r*.

V. *Cairvickuie* = *cathair, the chair, or seat, of MacKay*.

VI. There is *Port na cille*, on *Cara Island*, but there is no indication of an old church.

## KNAPDALE—CNAPADAL

I. This name is pure Norse—*knapp-r + dal-r*. The word **cnap** is, however, so very old in Gaelic and so general in European language, that it need not be looked upon as necessarily or essentially Norse, but there cannot be a doubt that this name came by that way. It is the same word as English *knob*, or its older form *knop*. The Anglo-Saxon had it as *cnæp*, extremely close to the Gaelic sound. The Dutch and the German have it as *knop*, and there is in Cowal **an gnob**.

The **cnap** which gives the name to the district is the south point of the land between Loch Caolasport and Loch Sween, which rises very sharply to a rounded height of three hundred feet.

The *dal-r*, or *dale*, which gives the second part of the name, is without doubt the valley of the **Abhainn-mhór**, or *Great-river*, which runs inland from the **cnap** for some six or seven miles. It is most interesting to notice that the middle *a* of the native pronunciation of the district name represents the old Norse *r* of *knapp-r*, which is now but rarely heard. There are other **cnaps** in Argyll district and in Lorne.

II. The English names are few and of no importance. Ashens and Erins are hybrid English plural forms. **Cruach na Bren**-field is a very bad mixture; Bren-field is for **breun-achadh**, *vile-field*.

III. The difficult Gaelic names from LOCH TARBERT to CRINAN are not many.

**Achadh dà mhillein** = **achadh + dà + dim. of meall**.

**Achachoish** = *achadh a' chòis*, a cave, or hollow.

**Ardnackaig**, perhaps fem. of Neachtan (p. 62). I cannot offer any other explanation.

**Artilligain** is the **Àrd** of **Uilleagan**, whoever he was. The name contains two dims., -**ag** + **an**. Compare **Tir-èt-ag-ain**, **Leac-ollagain**, &c., perhaps **Uilleam(h)-agan**, a certain William.

**Bailevaurgain** = *baile a' bhorgain*, the farm of the little fort (N.).

**Baranlongairt** (see p. 25); but the position of the name here makes the simple rendering of **long-airt** quite possible.

**Barnaguy** = *Bàrr na gaoithe*, the windy Barr.

**Barnashalig** = *Bàrr na seilg*, the Barr of the hunt.

**Baun** is for **bann**, a band, or bond, which the position of the name also makes appropriate.

**Cainikain** = *caineachain*, dim. of **canach**.

**Caoirain** (Burn) is almost certainly *caorunn*, the rowan.

**Caolas-port** (Loch) = *caolas* (caol) + port.

**Càr-mór** and **Cour a' mhairm**. See Hill-names.

**Craiglin** = *creag linne*, the rock by the pool.

**Crear** is *criathar*, a sieve, not an uncommon name for streams which "filter" through their course—one time below the surface, next in the open.

**Cretshengan** = *croit sheangan*, ant-croft.

**Cùil-ghaltro** = *cùil* + gen. pl. of N. *gòlt-r*, a boar.

**Daltot** = *dail* + *tobhta*, turf-field.

**Duarman** (Cnoc nan)—same as **torman**, murmur.

**Eilthireach** (Cnoc nan) = *eile*, other, + *tir-each*, other-landers—therefore a pilgrim, or an emigrant.

**Errol** (Loch) is possibly Norse, but see p. 43.

**Ghallagain** (Eilean dà) is for **E. dà Ghall-ag-ain**, the island of the two (little) Lowlanders, or strangers.

**Gleannralloch** is most interesting. It is **gleann** (**eadar**)**r** (**dh**)**a loch**, *the glen between the two lochs* (Tarbert). The **r** is all that is left of **eadar**, and the **a** is all of **dhà**. Rowany (Manx) = **eadar dhà mhòine**, *between two turbaries* (note).

**Iolaireig** is **iolair**, *the eagle*, + **aig**. See p. 8.

**Leirg** (Gleann dà) = *the glen of the two leargs*. See p. 16.

**Naomhachd** (Eilean), *the island of holiness*.

**Odhain** (Tigh), or **omhan**, *the froth of milk, or whey* (H. S. D.).

**Orran** = **oirean**, *edges, borders, or limits*; pl. of **oir**.

**Sgreagach** (Lochan), *scraggy, dry, parched*.

**Stighseir** (Cnoc), based on Eng. *stance*.

**Tayvallich** = **tigh a' bhealaich**, *the house on the pass*.

**Tiobairt** (Blàr an) *the field of the well*—the gen. of **tipra**, Old Gaelic; mod. **tobar**.

**Tiretagain** = **tìr** + **Aed**, now **Aodh** + **ag-an**, *Aed or Hughie's land*.

IV. Norse names are few and they are mixed. **Car-salg**, **Danna**, **Fascadal**, **Ormsary**, **Scotnish** (Loch), **Stor-noway**, **Ulva**, seem pure Norse, but Ardminish, Ardnoe, Airidh-staic, Bailivaurgain, are mixtures. **Ard-my-nes** = *Ard-midge-ness*, **Ard-an-haug-r**, *the aird of the howe*, **àiridh** + **stakk-r**, **Baile a' bhorg-ain**. Loch Sween (**Suain**), Loch Racadail, and Lussa are quite open to doubt. If the Norseman had never come to Knapdale, Loch Sween would be the beautiful Gaelic Loch **Suain** (as it is locally named) *the loch of peace*, or of *sleep*—so very appropriate. **Racadal** is Gaelic for *horse-radish*, coming by a metathesis of **rotacal** from Sc. **rot-coll**, which Jamieson says means *the burning root*—but I prefer to look upon the name as Norse, in both its parts, **rakkl**, *a dog*,

+ *dal-r, dog-dale*. Lussa also is no doubt Norse, but it is a little troublesome to find **Cruach-lusach** (the *herb-abounding* Mountain) standing some 1600 feet high immediately over the stream named Lussa. **Cruach-lusach** is quite good and pertinent Gaelic. Did this name pass down to the stream, or did a Norse stream-name get transferred to the mountain? The one and the other is possible. It is, however, perhaps safer to believe that **Cruach-lusach** comes by the local philologist, who did not know Norse or the Norseman, but took the mountain-name from the river.

V. Church-names are Killanaish = **Cill Aonghais** = *Kil-Angus*, Kilcalmonel = **Cill Cholmain Ella** (p. 169), Kilberry = **Cill Bhaire**, Kilmahumag = **Cill mo chumag**, Kimaluag = **Cill mo Lu-ag** (p. 179), Kilmory = **Cill Mhoire** = *Kil-Mary*. Kilmichael is evident, and there are such kindred names as **lochan a' Chille Bhlathain**, **Cruach Cille Bheagain**, and **achadh Cill Bhrannain**, although there is not now, if ever there was, any indication of their churches in the neighbourhood of these names.

VI. Personal names are :—

**Dòmhnail** (Dun), *Dun-Donald*. This is one of the very old Gaelic personal names. Its elements and its existence as a name can be traced far away into 'the earliest forms of Keltic speech. The name means *world-ruler*—**domno** + **val**.

**Dhonnchadh** (Sgeir) is another of the old names—*Duncan*—from **donn**, *brown* or *dun* + **cath**, *warrior*, now *battle*.

**Dùghaill** (Lochan). This name comes from the north. It means *black-stranger*, **dubh** + **Gall**, as against **Finn-Gall**, *the fair stranger*; the one was the Dane, the other the Norwegian of the Northern invasion.

**Imheir** (Cnoc) = Ivor, Ivaar (N.)—as in Mac-Iver.

**MacKay** (Loch), a translation of **Mac-Aoidh**. See Tiretigan.

**Bheathain** (Port Mhic), Macbean, from *beatha*, *life*; "son of life."

**Eunlaig** (Loch Mhic). It is almost certainly **Loch Mhic-Eanlaig**, which I am told means *MacNeilage*, locally.

**Eòin** (Cladh) = **Eòin John's** + *cladh*, *burial-place*. This is the same name as occurs in **Cill (Sh)eathain**, *John's church* (I.), and in the surname Maclean = **Mac-(gh)ille-(Sh)eathain**. The form Iain is modern Gaelic for *John*.

**Mhàrtain** (Eilean) = *Martin's isle*. This is common now, as name and as surname. The great Martin was Martin of Tours (p. 161), and perhaps we may refer the name to him, all the way. The idea in the name is that in *mart-ial* and in *Mars*. It is from him we have *Martin-mas*, an *fhéill-Mhàrtain*.

**Thormaid** (Barr) = *Norman's Barr*, or *high-land*. A Norse name, *Thórr* + *moðr*, *Thor's wrath*. By an extremely peculiar deviation it has become Norman, really a *North-man* in English form. Whether there is any bond of fact or imagination between the two words I am not able to say.

ARGYLL—**EARAGHÀIDHEAL**

I. This is the name given by natives of other parts of the county to the district extending from Crinan northwards, having Loch Craignish and Loch Awe on the one side, and Loch Fyne on the other. Why the old and far-reaching name came to be limited to this district, I am not able to say, but it is the same name as that of the whole county.

## (I) FROM CRINAN TO FURNACE

II. English names are comparatively numerous, especially on Loch Fyne, in the south—Scotstown, Newhouse, Pointhouse, Birdfield, Rowanfield, &c. Most English names here are translations. Craigens and Tunns are Gaelic, *creagan* and *tunna*, with the English plural added.

III. Gaelic names are fairly well stated, but the grammar is sometimes different from that of the names of the northern part of the county, and from that ordinarily accepted. **Tìgh an tràigh**, for instance, and **Cruach a' bhearraich** are in masculine form, though ordinarily, and perhaps more correctly, they should take the feminine forms, **tìgh na tràighe** and **cruach na bearraiche** (the latter, from *beithir*, *a monster*, and not from *bearach*, *a dog-fish*, would be better spelled *beathrach*). On the other hand, *Dalnahasaig* is feminine, though it is usually masculine : **dail an aisig**, *the field by the ferry*.

**Achagoyle** = *achadh gaohail*, *windy field*.

**Achnaleppin** = *achadh na leth-pheighinn*, *half-penny (land) field*.

**Barnakill** is **Bàrr na coille**. Though the name shows the form of *-kill*, there is no church there. If one is not familiar with a locality and even with its history, this *-kill* form may mislead. I spent months in looking for St. O'Craw, as I thought he was commemorated in Kilocraw K., but he was not "among the Saints," for the name is simply **Coille-chnò**, *the nut-wood*!

**Baroile** = **Bàrr aoil**—the Barr where there is *lime*.

**Barsailleach** = mod. **Bàrr seileach**, *the willow Barr*. The old form was *sail*—compare **Salachan**.

**Carnassary** = **Càrn** + *asaraidh*, *pasturage*.

**Carron** is on one of the sharp *twists* of the River Add, so it may have origin from **Car**, a *twist*, and **an**, which is a frequent formation of names. It is difficult to give the ordinary explanation of *a rough river* to the name here, even if we supposed that the name may have applied to even a part of the river here, where in fact it flows faster than in any other portion of its course. See Carlonan.

**Crarae**. Although the name looks crooked, it may be very simple. There is **Craleckan** = **crà-leacann** close to it, and Leacann River and Loch, which suggests that the Crà-leacann is the starting point; from which it might be inferred that **Crà** was adjectival in both names, and that *-rai* = *reidh*, or *smooth*, or *level* (land), in the name Cràrae.

**Crinan** = *crìon*, *small*, *withered* + **an**, on same lines as **Corr-an**. **Crìon-ach** is *dry brushwood*.

**Deòra** (Port an), the Port of *the exile*. This is the source of the name Dewar—Bail' an deòra (p. 58).

**Drynlea** cannot be anything but **droigheann liath**.

**Ducharnan** = *dubh-chàrn*, with *dim.*, **an**.

**Edderline** = *eadar linne*, *between the pools*.

**Eurach** = *iùbhrach*, *the yew-wood*.



**Gallanach** = gallan, *a branch*; poetically *a youth* (*note*)—also *a rock, standing stone* + ach.

**Garvanchy** = garbh, *rough*, + an + ach + aidh.

**Gilp** (Loch). See **Nant**, p. 60.

**Glassary** = glas + àiridh, *grey* or *green*, àiridh.

**Kames** = Camus, *a bay*; a very frequent name.

**Kiarnan** = Cea(th)r(amh)nan. See **Kerran** and **Kirn**.

**Largie**. See p. 16.

**Lecknary** = leac nathrach, *the (flat) stone of the serpent*.  
See p. 16.

**Lochgair** = loch geàrr, surely an appropriate name,  
*short loch*.

**Minard** is for min-àird, *the smooth dird*. See p. 11.

**Otter** is oitir = od + tir. See p. 44.

**Poltalloch** = poll + taobh + loch (*note*).

**Stronesker** = sron iasgair, *the fisher's knowe*.

**Tayness** is tigh an eas, *the house by the waterfall*.

**Tibbertich**, a name in -ach, from tipra. See **Voc**.  
and p. 36.

**Tomdow** = tom dubh, *the black hillock*.

**Tullochgorm**, *the green hillock* = tullach + gorm.

**Uillian** for uileann, *the elbow*. See p. 7.

IV. The Norse names are few. There is **Scodaig** from *skoda*, *to scout* + *vík*, **Ormaig** = orm-r + *vík*, **Rudale**, and **Inver-ae**, in part.

V. The Church-names are **Kilmartin** = **Cill Mhàrtain** (p. 161), **Kilbride** = **Cill Brìgide** (p. 160), **Kilmichael** = **Cill Mhicheil**, **Killineuar** = **Cill an iubhair**, *yew church*; **Cill Eoin**, *John's church*.

VI. **Eilean Aoghain** is the same as **Aodh** + ain.

## (2) FROM FURNACE TO THE RIVER ORCHY

In this large area the names are almost altogether Gaelic, and, upon the whole, fairly good Gaelic. Such a name as **tom an sgalaig** transgresses the ordinary grammar, and yet strangely enough it cannot be considered altogether wrong. The *form* of the word is grammatically feminine, but the *meaning* of the word is masculine, *a farm-servant*.

II. English names are very few. Ladyfield is English, but it may be a translation for **dail na bain-tighearna**, and Kenmore is only quasi-English for **Ceann mór**.

III. The more or less difficult Gaelic names are :—

**Achanafanndach**. See Fanans, p. 59.

**Achindrain** = **achadh an droighinn**, *thorn-field*.

**Achintibairt** = **achadh an tiobairt**, *well-field*.

**Achnangoul** = **achadh nan gobhal**, *fork-field (note)*.

**Ardchonnell** is **àird + coingheal**. See p. 59.

**Ardteatle** = **àird + teitheil**. See p. 70.

**Bail' a' ghobhainn**, *the smith's farm*.

**Balantyre** = **Bail' an t-saoir**, *the carpenter's farm*.

**Barran** is the dim. of **bàrr**, *the small Barr*.

**Beochlich** (Allt) = **beo + chloich**, *living stone (note)*.

**Bocaird** = **boc + àird**, the *aird* or *high-land of bucks*.

**Bochyle** is **bó + choille**, *the cow-wood*.

**Brackley** = **breac + leathad**.

**Braevallich** = **braigh a' bhealaich**.

**Brenachoil**, almost certainly **bràigh na coille**.

**Caolaran** = **caol**, *narrow*, + **ar-an**.

**Carlolan** = **car**, *a twist*, or *bend*, + **lònan**.

**Chonnain** (Innis), *Connan's isle*. He had a bad reputation among his fellows of the Féinn (*note*).

**Chroisg** (Allt a'), a genitive form of **crag**, which see.

**Claonairt** = **claon** + **aird**, *the sloping height*.

**Còrrbhile** (Bun) = **còrr** + **bile**, *an edge*.

**Craim** (Loch na) = **loch na creamha**.

**Craleckan** = **crà**, *red, blood*, + **leacann**, or **cràdh**.

**Currach** (a'). This ought to be **an currach**. See p. 26.

**Dalmally** = **dail màilidh**, with **Uachdar màilidh**, suggests that the name has origin from the stream, which is the usual way. The name would therefore point to a very old origin, which has not yet been clearly determined (*note*). **Kilmaillie** is almost certainly from a different source, see p. 75.

**Dailchenna** = **dail Choinnich**, *Kenneth's field*.

**Douglas** (river), an exceptionally old Gaelic name **Dubh**, *black*, is yet in common speech, but **glas** for a *stream* is not, and has not been for a very long time. The name, however, like **Finglas**, **fionn-ghlas**, *white*, or *bright, stream*, is thoroughly Keltic, *e.g.* **Douglas** (here), **Douglas** (Man), **Dowlais** (Wales), **Dub-glaissi**, gen. (L. na h-Uidhre), which are all the same, and from the same source.

**Drumlee** = **druim liàth** (*Colours*).

**Drumork** and **Archan** (river) seem to contain the same root, and the same as **Aircaig** (river), namely, old **arc**, *black*.

**Drynich** (Innis) = **innis droighnich**, *the isle of*, or *by the thorn-wood*, or **Druidhnich**, *Druids*.

**Dychlie** can hardly be other than **dubh-choille**, *dark wood*.

**Earalach** (Lochan), the gen. of **earail**, *a warning, caution*. Is this a dangerous lochan?

**Eredinn**. There is nothing in Gaelic that will explain the name but **eiridinn**, which means attendance upon,

or nursing of, the sick. There is hardly room to doubt that this is the same word, but why the place was so named is difficult to say.

**Lobhair** (abhainn) is *leper-river*, but in old usage **lobhar** was any *diseased* person. It is almost certain that this should be **labhar**, *loud-sounding*.

**Oitir** is the name given as "Otter," a sloping land by the sea—a *to-land*; for old **od**, **ad** + **tir**, *land*, therefore **od-tir**. It is **Uitir** in Luing.

**Pennymore** = a' pheighinn mhór, *the large penny-land*.

**Sallachry** is saileach-àiridh, mod. seileach, *willow*.

**Saunach** from samh, *sorrel* = samhnach is the same name as

**Sonachan** (with dim. an).

**Sgòrnach** (ruadh) = sgòr, Sc. *scaur*, Eng. *scar*, a cliff or a sharp rock + ruadh, *red*.

IV. The Norse names are few. Inverary named upon the River Aray is hybrid, the Inbher being Gaelic (p. 10), —aray Norse. More than one word is possible for the first part of—**áor-á**, e.g. **ar**, *an oar*, **æ-r**, *a ewe*, and **eyr-r**, *a gravelly beach*, or *bank*. I prefer the last, therefore *the Inbher of the sandy-banked river*—for there can be no doubt regarding the final **á** = *river*. Shira (River and Loch) is also Norse.

V. Kilblaan (p. 175), **Caibeal Chiarain** (p. 170), **Kilmaillie** (p. 75), **Kilmun** (p. 163), and **Clachan**, *the stone church*, are all the Church-names.

VI. **Lochan Mhic Dhiarmaid** = dia + ermit (*arement, on-minding*). Eng. Dermot means "*God-reverencing*," and p. 95.

**Cruach Mhic Ghaolie** is not familiar Gaelic, if it is not for **Mac fhaolaidh** = MacLellan, "*Wolf-son*."

## COWAL—CÒMHGHAL

I. The whole of the district between Loch Fyne and Loch Long is included under this name, for convenience, even if it may not be strictly correct. The district has been thought to have been named upon Comhghal, son of Domangairt and grandson of Fergus Mór MacErc, the founder of the Dalriadic kingdom—as Lorne was supposed to have been named upon Loarn, brother of Fergus Mór. All this tradition, however, is open to doubt (*note*).

II. In the Loch-Fyne third of Cowal, English names are very few and of no interest.

III. The Gaelic names are very corrupt, especially on the south and east, where the English of the Lowlands comes into close contact. There are some names that are positive gems. **Meall-an-T**, for instance, is for **meall an t-suidhe**, with Coirantee for **coire an t-suidhe** in the near neighbourhood, as gloss and explanation.

I have, for convenience of reference, divided the district into three parts.

(1) FROM LOCH FYNE TO THE KYLES, LOCH RIDDON,  
AND GLENDARUEL

**Achadalvory** = **achadh dail Mhoire**. **Dail-Mhoire** is the earlier name, with **achadh** added later.

**Achagoyl** = **achadh gaothail**, *windy-field*.

**Achanelid** = **achadh an eilid**, *hind-field*—with Agreement exceptional.

**Acharossan** = **achadh** + the dim. plural of **ros**.

**Achnaskioch** = **achadh na sgitheach**, *haw-thorn field*.

**Ardgaddan** = **àird ghad-an**, the plural of **gad**.

**Ardlamont** is the **Àird** of the Lamonts = N. **lögmen**, *law-men*—locally **Àird Mhic-Laomuinn**.

**Ardmarnock** = àird mo Ern-oc. See Church-names, p. 184.

**Ballochandrain** = bealach an droighinn.

**Broighleig** (Cruach na), the C. (Hill-names) of *the whortle-berry*.

**Callow** = cala, bay, cove—a very appropriate name, by circumstances.

**Camuilt** (Cruach) is cruach a' cham-uillt, *winding stream* (cam + allt).

**Chamchuart** (a') = cam + cuairt, *a circling*. **Cuairt** is used as a noun, *a circuit*, with cam as adj., here meaning *crooked*, although essentially, and as a rule, it means simply *bent*.

**Chuilceachan** (Cruach and Lochan) is a peculiar plural form, from cuilc, *a reed*.

**Corachria** seems to be còrr + criadh, with wrong Agreement. **Rudha mór de chorachria**, quite close, seems to prove this rendering.

**Corr-mheall**. See còrr and meall.

**Craignafeich** = creag nam fitheach, *ravens'-rock*.

**Dailinglongairt**, which occurs twice at the head of Holy Loch, may quite well have its easy meaning from long + airt—in this position.

**Evanachan** = Eòghan + ach-an. This is doubtful, and exceptional even if right.

**Ganuisg** (Barr) = gann, *scarce*, + uisge, *water*. It is a very dry Barr.

**Inens**, on the Kyles of Bute, is the English plural of aoineadh = na h-aoinidh, p. 12.

**Largiemore** = an leargach mhór (p. 16).

**Lephinchapel** = leth-pheighinn chapull (*q.v.*), not Eng. chapel. Cf. Lephinsearrach, K.

**Lindsaig** = N. *lin*, Gen. *lin-s* + aig = *vlk*; but see note.

**Meldalloch** (Loch na) = the Gen. of *mil*, *i.e.* *meala* + the old Gen. of *dail*, therefore the Loch of *the honey-field*.

**Peilige** (Rudha na), *Porpoise-point*—"A species of sea-animals most destructive of the salmon . . . are found playing in the Clyde off the Castle. These are called buckers, *pellocks*, or porpoises" (St. Ac.—Dunbarton).

**Portavaidue** is for **Port a' mhadaidh**, *dog-port*.

**Riddon** (Loch) seems named upon a river (*note*).

**Sgat** (bheag and mhór), the small and the little *skate* (shaped) *islands*.

**Stillaig** is the -aig form with Gen. of *steall*, a *spout*, *squirt*, or *drop*. Eng. dis -*stil*. Better **Stiallaig**, from *stiall*, a *strip* (of land),

**Tilgidh** (Carn an) from *tilg*, *throw*—*the cairn of the throwing*, perhaps of the *shooting*.

## (2) BETWEEN (1) AND LOCH STRIVEN, GLEN KIN, AND LOCH ECK TO STRACHUR

II. English names and translations are frequent. Southall and Springfield may be original English names; but Milton, Salthouse, Loch-head (L. Striven), Midhill, and Little (River) must be translations.

III. The Gaelic names are, upon the whole, good, although there are a few that need correction.

**Achnagarran** = *achadh nan gearran* (see *geàrr*), *gelding-field*.

**Altgaltraig** is *allt* + N. *göltr*, a *boar*, + *aig*. The recurrence of these *göltr*-names, taken with the prevalence of the *muc*-names in Argyll, is very interesting. We may wonder whether the Norseman translated an old native

Gaelic **muc**-name, or whether the wild-boar existed in the Norseman's time. According to Boyd-Dawkins, the wild boar was not extinct in Britain until well into the eighteenth century.

**Ardantraive** and **Colintraive** are for **Aird an t-snaimh** and **Caol an t-snaimh**, referring to the fact that cattle used to be made to *swim* across this the narrowest part of the Eastern Kyle (**Caol**) into Bute.

**Ballochyle** = **Bail' a' Chaoil** (p. 67).

**Bernice** is for Gael. **Beàrnach**, or **Bearnas** (F.).

**Braingortan** = **bràigh nan goirtean**.

**Branter** (Gleann) is **gleann a' bhrannair, gridiron**, but why?

**Conchra** = **con + chea(th)ra(mh)**, *dogs' quarter* (land), p. 18, or **con**, *together*, + pl. of **crò**, *a fold* (note).

**Coraddie** = **coire fada**, *the long corrie*—the adjectival part being aspirated out, that is, **fh** is silent.

**Corparsk**—is it **Corpach**? (p. 14).

**Corrachaive** = **coire a' chaitheamh**.

**Craigandaive** = **creag an daimh**, *ox-craig*.

**Cruach** (and Allt) **Neuran** is for **cruach an fhiùrain**, *the Cruach* (Hill-names) *of the sapling*. **Fh** is silent, and **n** of the article fixes on the beginning.

**Duilater** = **an dubh-leitir**. See p. 21.

**Feorlean** is the *farthing land*. See p. 18.

**Finnart** = **fionn**, *white* (Old Gael. **find**), + **àird**. Cf. **Finglas**. This adjective is not now in use; its place is taken by **geal**. See **clachfin** and **clochkel**.

**Garrachra** = **garbh + chea(th)ra(mh)**, *the rough quarter* (land), p. 18.

**Garvie** refers primarily to the *rough* stream on which the farm is situated. It is from **garbh**, *rough*, so common as **garbh alt**, *rough stream*.



**Glendaruel**, said to be *gleann dà ruadh-thuil*, the glen of the *two red floods* or rivers (*note*).

**Glenlean** = *gleann leathan*, *the broad glen*, and **Glen Kin**, *gleann cumhang*, *the narrow glen*.

**Inbherchaolain** = **Inbher** + *caol*, *narrow*, + *ain* = *a(bha)inn*, *river*—the Inver of the river called *narrow*—an extremely descriptive name. Cf. *Inverinan*, p. 57.

**Lephinkill** = *leth-pheighinn na cille*, with the Clachan of Glendaruel, and the modern church, close by.

**Robuic** (Allt) = *allt an ruadh-bhuic*, *roe buck Water*.

**Striven** (Loch) is Loch Straven (1695). There is a strong disposition towards the narrow vowel in this district. I therefore prefer the old form (*note*).

**Srondavain** = *sròn damh*, *an ox, stag* + *dim.*, *ain*.

**Sronafian** = *sròn nam fian*; *fian(t)ag* is the berry of *Empetrum nigrum*, the black crow-berry, or *Crakeberry* (Hooker), or *the Fingalians' Knowe* (F.).

**Sgarach mór** (mountain), a variant of **Sgòr** and **Sgûr**, *a scarred, notched, or jagged hill* (Hill-names).

**Tamhaisg** (Creag an), *the rock of the "brownie."* This is from *amhasg* with the *t* of the article fixed on, like **Tamhnach**, from *samhnach*.

**Tamhnach** (Burn). This form comes of the Article, which has fallen out, *an t-samhnach*, from *samh*, *sorrel*. The same thing occurs in Morven. This *t* of the Article is the remnant of a longer word, which led to the aspiration and silencing of *s*.

**Vegain** (Abhainn and Inbher). This is again a name in which the terminal *-ain* = *abhainn*. Cf. *Inbher chao-lain*—the first part is *beag*, *little*, aspirated, therefore *the small river*.

## (3) EAST OF (2) TO LOCH LONG

II. English names are numerous, as might be expected. Southhall, Springfield, Salt-house, Midhill, need no explanation. Milton, Burnt Islands, River Little, are clear translations. Couston and Troustan are distinctly irregular.

III. The Gaelic names in the south are strongly perverted, and in some cases it is difficult to get them straight. In the northern part of the district the Gaelic names are good.

**Ardchyline** is *aird a' chuilinn*, the *Aird of the holly*.

**Ardhallow** is *àrd*, the adj. *high* + *talamh*, *land*, therefore *the high-land*.

**Ardentinny** = *aird an teine*, the *Aird of the fire*. I am not able to say whether the basis of the name is in the old Bealltuin or May-day *need fires*, or in the very common *faire* or *watch fires*. There can be no doubt as to the verbal meaning.

**Ardnadam**. Although the English influence is driving this name into something like **Ard-in-àdam**, it is almost certainly *àird nan damh*, *ox* or *stag height*, but plural.

**Ardnahien** = *aird na h-aibhne*, the *Aird of the river*.

**Ardyne** (Point and Burn) with Glenfyne. The element here is *Fyne* the river = **Fin-e**, the *bright river*—the same as in **Loch Fine**. Compare **Sheil-e**.

**Badd** (The), a Hill-name from Gael. *bad*, a *thicket*.

**Beach** = *beitheach*, the *birch-wood*.

**Blairmore** is the *blàr mór*, the *great field*, or *moss*.

**Buthkollidar**. The first part of the name is *bùth*, now meaning *shop*, but in older usage a *hut*, or *booth*, as in Eng. *booth*, Gael. *bothan* + *coille(d)air*, a *woodman*

—therefore, the place of *the woodman's hut*. The first part meets us in other parts of Scotland as Boath, Both, and Bo(h).

**Cluniter** is for **claon-leitir**, *the inclining or oblique leitir*, p. 21. The **l** has dropped out because **nl** is not an acceptable sequence. It is the **n** that usually disappears, but the **l** in the first syllable has caused the retention of **n** rather than of **l** in the second.

**Corlarach** = **còrr** + **làrach**.

**Corrow** = **an coire**, *the corrie* (perhaps pl.)

**Coylet** is the **caol-leathad**, p. 21.

**Guilmuich** is **cùil (na) muice**, *the pig's recess or nook*.

**Donich** (River, Beinn, and Inbher). Inveronich has the **d** aspirated out, as in Toberonchy for **tobar-Dhonn-chaidh**.

**Dunoon** is Gael. **Dùn-omhan**, with nasal short **ò**. This is why I have given this spelling of the name. Some have said that the second part may be the same element as in Loch Awe, Gael. **Loch Obha**, with open short **o**, but this is quite impossible. The form strongly suggests that the terminal is a noun feminine, and most probably a river name, which would be good enough if we knew that the name of the stream flowing at the foot of the hill was anything like this—and, even if we do not know the stream-name, the suggestion remains. Compare Dun-add, *the fort on the (river) Add* = **fhada**, or *the long river*. The form not being a Masc. gen. does away with the possibility of a personal name like **Dùn-Dòmhnail**, or **Dùn-Rostain**, K., and also with the possibility of a descriptive second term like **Dun-àirneig**, or **Dun chreagaig**, R. It must be a gen. Sing. fem. or a gen. Plur. masc.—the latter most unlikely. The whole feeling is towards a river-name in **-an**, and there is

nothing in the form against *òdhan*, *foam*, as the base of the name. *Omna* is old Gael. for *oak-tree*.

**Dornoch** (Point) is a name in *-ach*, from *dòrn*, *a fist*, therefore the place of pebbles, or round stones of the size of the fist.

**Drumsynie** = *druim sìne*, from *sian*, *a storm*, therefore *the stormy Druim*. Cf. Loch Fyne, &c.

**Eachaig** (River) and district also, seems to point to the district **Eachaig**, or *the place of horses*, as the origin of the name for all its connections, with the River and with Loch Eck = **L. Echaig** (*note*).

**Finbracken** = *fionn* + *bhreac* + *an*. **Fionn** is old Adj. *white, clear, or bright*, and *breacan* is a descriptive name in *-an* (p. 8), from *breac*, *spotted or striped*—the same as *breacan*, *a tartan plaid*. Compare Dubh-aig, and Liath-aig, L.

**Gairletter** = *geàrr-leitir* (p. 21).

**Gantocks**. **Gamhn(t)aich** is a favourite name for stirk-shaped small island rocks. There is no clear reason against this rendering here.

**Garrowchorran** = *garbh, rough, + corr-an*.

**Gailich** (Ard na) is (*aird na*) *gàillich*, which means a place where cattle were wont to contract a disease of this name—*an inflammatory swelling of the gums*. Cf. Achinarnich, *flux-field* (in cattle also).

**Glenfyne**. See **Ardyne**. This is the same word, with *f* aspirated out, as it always is in the Masc. Genitive.

**Glenkinglas** is *gleann + cinn-glas*, the *glen* named on *the head of the river—glas*. See **Finglas**. It is not possible to derive the name from *Fin-glas*, although the suggestion is apparent. **Ard-Kinglas** is at the mouth of the river on Loch Fine.

**Inellan**. There can be no doubt that this name is

**I-an-eilean**, although it is not at all easy to be sure of the value of the first element ; and there is the further difficulty that there is no island within nameable distance, except *The Perch*, which is a very small thing now, even if it may have been considerably larger in the past. If the Norseman was not so remarkably absent from the names on the Clyde, and of this district, a duplication of the *island* name might be offered as explanation—N. **ey** and G. **eilean** with the Gaelic article.

**Inverchapel** = **inbher chapull**.

**Laglingartan** must be a Genitive form, from **longairt** (p. 25) = **lag luingairt** + **an**.

**Letter may** is either **Leitir mhaith** or **L. mhaighe**, *the good* (land) *L.* or the *Moy-leitir*.

**Mhuinne** (Goirtean a')—rightly **Goirtean a' bhuinne**, *a stream, rapid current*.

**Miseag** (Cruach nam) = **minnseag**, *a yearling she-goat*, from **meann**, *a kid*.

**Poll Chorkan** = pl. of **corc**, *a knife*, or Eng. *cork*.

**Restil** (Loch). See **Freasdal** (p. 31).

**Riachain** (Eas) is from **riach**, *tear*, + **ain**, as in **Inver-inain**.

**Sron bhochlan** = **sròn bhuachaillean**, *shepherds' knowe*.

IV. Norse names are not numerous. **Ascog** and **Ormidale** are pure Norse ; **Ardlamont** and **Alltghaltraig** are hybrids ; **Abhainn Osde** and **Bagh Osde** are also mixtures. It is distinctly remarkable how few Norse names are in this district and upon the Firth of Clyde. It would seem that there was some check upon the Norseman in this direction, which he endeavoured to remove at the battle of Largs (October 2, 1263), and failed.

V. The Church is not very frequent in Cowal. There is **Kilfinan** and **Kilmun**, both famous churches, and

perhaps named upon one and the same Saint. In *Kal.* (Oct. 21 n) occurs **Fintan .i. nomen artus .i. Mundu = mofhindu .i. Fintan, i.e. his name at first, i.e. Mundu my Findu, i.e. Fintan.** So it is not unlikely that the whole district of Cowal came under this one religious name and influence from Kilmun as centre (p. 165). There is Kilbride also, and Kildavaig and Kilail, but I am not sure that the last two are at all Cills. There are several names about Dunoon which probably have a Church origin, such as **Gleann Móraig, Àrd Fillayn, Kilbride Hill, and the Bishop's Seat.** There is Kilmarnock Hill on Loch Striven = **Cill mo Ern-oc,** but there is no indication of his church.

VI. Personal names, with exception of those in English, are quite wanting. This shows the commendable good taste of the inhabitants of Cowal. It may indeed be said that Argyll altogether compares to great advantage in this way with other counties, some of which have been vulgarised exceedingly by "this craving after immortality" of small people.

## LORNE—LATHARNA

I. In this district is included all that part between Loch Awe and the sea on the west, from the foot of Loch Awe to Loch Etive. The usual and traditional explanation of the name is that it is that of Loarn, son of Erc and brother of Fergus Mór of the early Dalriads. A similar explanation is given of Cowal—that it was named after Comgal, a grandson of Fergus Mór. I am far from satisfied with this explanation, but I have none other to offer, better or worse. The old forms are no help. They are Ladharna, Lagharna, Laverna, without any plan or suggestion (*note*).

II. There are not many English names. Hayfield, Kirkton, Midmuir, may be translations; Australia and New York are clearly imports.

## (1) FROM THE FOOT OF LOCH AWE TO ABHAINN-FHÌONAIN

III. This district is nearly all Gaelic, and it is fairly well done, so that the exceptional names are not numerous. It is a little troublesome because of its broken west coast with its many small islands. On this west side there is a good deal of Norse.

**Achinarnich** = *achadh an èarnaich*, *murrain-field*.

**Avich** (Loch, river, Dail-) = *amhaich* (*of*) *the neck*, most appropriate to the *neck* of land between the northern end of Loch Avich and Loch Awe.

**Bailivicair** is the *vicar's farm*—of Kilbrandon, no doubt.

**Barnacarry** = *bàrr na cairidh*. **Cairidh** is a mound,

or a semi-circle of stone, thrown round the mouth of a river, or at the end of a sea-loch, so that fish getting in there on full tide are left stranded on the ebb.

**Barnaline** = bàrr an àilean, *the meadow Barr.*

**Barmaddy** = bàrr a' mhadaidh, *the dog's Barr.*

**Bhùlais** (Lochan a'). bùlas is a *pot-hook*.

**Bùrrich-bean** seems to be a double corruption of **Beinn a' bhùiridh**. **Bùireadh** means generally *roaring* or *bellowing*, but it is specially applied to *the rutting season* of deer.

**Caddletown** is perhaps a hybrid *cadal*, *sleep*, + *town*, for an old **Bail' a' chadail**, *sleepytown*, or *farm*. It is an **Cadal-ad-an** locally—of same meaning.

**Cheallair** (Loch a'), (of) *the cellarer*, or steward, of the (Monastery ?) Church of Kilmelfort.

**Craignamoraig** = creag na Móraig, *Sarah's rock*. The article is not as a rule used in personal place-names.

**Craignish** is Gael. creag + N. *nes*, *rock-ness*.

**Dailermaig** = dail + **Dhiarmaid**, which is locally pronounced **Dhiarmaig** (F.).

**Dalachulish** = dail a' chaolais (caol), *the field by the Narrow*.

**Dòirlin** (on Loch Avich) is peculiar, where there is no tide—but compare **Sàilean** on Loch Sheil, p. 87. Of course fresh water lakes have their rise and fall, and analogy may account for the name.

**Earna** (Eilean na h-), one of the many forms of N. *Eyr-r*.

**Eleraig** and **Elerig**, and **Eleric P.**, have their best explanation from **Iolaireig**, p. 8.

**Garraron** = garbh-shròn, *rough-knowe*, or *nose*.

**Gemmil** = geum, *lowing*, + ail (?)

**Innie** (on Loch Tralaig) is interesting as an **Aoineadh**



on an inland lake, but there is a fine example on Loch Awe.

**Inverinan** = *inbher-fhion-abhainn*, the Inver of *the bright river*. There is **abhainn fhìonain**, but it is almost certain that there is a repetition of **abhainn** here, and that **fìonain** itself is **fìon-abhainn**. Compare Glenfinnan = **gleann fhion-abhainn**.

**Kilmhealaird** is as nearly as possible the correct native pronunciation of Kilmelfort—perhaps **Cill a' Mhill àird**. See **Meall** (Hills).

**Lagalochan** = *lag an lochain*. It is quite a common thing that **n** of the Gaelic article drops out before **l**.

**Leacollagain** is *leac* + a personal name + the double diminutive *ag-an*, *leac Ola(fh)-again*.

**Lergychoniemore** = *learg a' chonnaidh-mór*. For the grammar of this see p. 9.

**Lorne** (Corrie) must be referred to the same source as the district name.

**Maolachy** = *maol-achadh*, *bald* or *bare field*.

**Mhadail** (Sròn) = *mhadaidh* + *ail*.

**Oude** (river). Compare **Fìn-e**, **Seil-e**, &c. (*note*).

**Pollanduich** = *poll an dubhaidh* (*dubh*)—in Islay also.

**Seil** (Sound of, and Oban, and Loch). A now nameless river, **Saoil** (locally), may have been the starting-point of the names, but **Saoil** is applied to the whole island cut off by the Sounds of Seil and Clachan (*note*).

**Tralaig** (Loch), also based upon a river-name, **tradh**, *a fish spear*, *ail* + *aig*.

**Turnalt** = *tùrn*, *a turn*, + *allt*, *a burn*.

## (2) FROM FÌON-ABHAINN TO LOCH ETIVE

**Achcasdle** = *achadh a' chaisteil, castle-field.*

**Achleven** = *achadh leamhain, elm-field.*

**Achnamaddy** = *na madadh, dog (kind)-field.*

**Annat** is the parent church of a monastery. Bishop Forbes thought the name was that of a heathen goddess ! This was the Annat of Kilchrenain.

**Ardnaskie** = *aird an fhasgaidh, the Aird of shelter.*

**Ariogan** = *àiridh Eogain, Hughie's àiridh.*

**Awe** (Loch, river, Inver), are locally **Loch-òbha**, but the river is **Atha** and **Bun-atha**—a very peculiar difference (*note*).

**Balindore** = *baile an deòra, pilgrim-town (note).*

**Balinoe** is a hybrid, *baile an haug-r*, or perhaps better, *am Baile nodha, new town (F.).*

**Barachander** = *bàrr a' channtair.* Was this the Barr of the *cantor* of Kilchrenan ?

**Braglenmore** and **-beg**—*bràigh-ghleann*, “brae”-glen. The adjectival part being first makes the name a compound noun, and therefore takes the masc. adjectives *mór* and *beag*.

**Cathlun** is *a lump, an excrescence*—a figurative name.

**Chaineachain** (Lochan a') is the dim. of *canach, eirio-phorum* (Bot.)

**Clachadow** = *clacha dubha, the black, or dark, stones.*

**Cleugh** is a lowland Scots import. It is quite common in Lowland names, meaning *a rocky precipice, or a cliff*, and sometimes *a glen*. See Jamieson.

**Cnoclomain** = *cnoc + lom, naked, + dim. an.* **Loman** is *a naked, or needy, one*, therefore *the cnoc of the needy one*, unless *lom* applies to the *cnoc* itself as being naked or bare.

**Coillenaish** is *coille* + **Nais**, an old Gaelic personal name—*Naish's wood*.

**Conflicts**, at junction of Loch Awe, with river Awe and other streams, is simply a translation of **coingheal**, *whirlpools*, or meetings of waters.

**Corachadh** and **Corlarach** are *còrr* + *achadh* and + *làrach*.

**Choromaig** (Allt a') is either gen. of the personal name Cormac, or from **cothrom**, *level*. This last word is most interesting. It in fact means *equal weight*, that which holds the beam *level*; therefore, *the watershed*, where streams flow, in a sense, *equally* towards both sides of the **cothrom**, or watershed.

**Crutten** (Glen), natively **Gleann cruitein**, is evidently named on the stream (*note*).

**Dorlin**, on Loch Avich, a fresh-water lake, is peculiar, see p. 15; but it is not more so than **Ceann mara** on Loch Awe, or **Sàilean**, Loch Sheil.

**Fanans** = na Fàna, *gentle slopes*, pl. of fàn. It comes into a bhàn = a (bh) fàn, *downwards*.

**Feochain** (Loch, and Rivers—mór and beag). The name has origin from the river, locally **Faoch-ain**. **Faoch** is a *winkle*, but the essential idea is in the shape—a *whorl*, and *whirl-pool*, the latter being a characteristic of these rivers.

**Glenamachrie** = *gleann na machrach*, *the field- or carse-glen*.

**Killhounich**, for **Cill Choinnich** (p. 171).

**Kilvarie** is *coille a bharra* (gen. of bàrr), *the Barr-wood*.

**Livir** (Abhainn and Inver) has in it the root **lighe**, a *flood* (p. 77). This terminal is not common in river-names. Cf. Leven.

**Nant** (Loch and Gleann). This is a very exceptional name. It is without doubt the same word that is met with so very often in Welsh names; for instance, Nant (Denbigh), and Nant-Clywd, Nant-ddu (Brecon), Nant-garw (Glamorgan), Nant-mor (Merioneth), and many more. It is the same in meaning as Gael. *gleann*, and when we say **Gleann-Nant** we simply say *Glen-glen*. The word can be followed into Continental names. The point of great interest is how the name got there, a purely Cymric or Cymro-British word, from the language of a people that have never been thought to have entered the Highlands. There, however, the name is, and its origin cannot be doubted, and perhaps it is not the only one. More may underlie this than can rightly be inquired into here. **Loch-gilp**, for instance, may have its best interpretation through Welsh, as **Loch-gwlyb**, or as it was in Old Welsh, *gulip*, the *wet*, *damp*, or *swampy* loch, which is not at all unfitting. There are, and there have been, other Argyll names which distinctly suggest that the Britons of Strathclyde went "beyond Dumbarton." The only Gaelic word which comes near the name, *gilb*, a *chisel*, does not seem pertinent.

**Nell** (Loch). This is simply **Loch nan eala**, *swan-lake*.

**Pennyfuar** is the **Peighinn fhuar**, *the cold penny-land*.

**Siar** (Loch) is *the Western loch* (p. 78).

**Taymore** = **tigh mór**, *the big house*.

**Taynuilt** = **tigh an uillt**, *the house by the burn*.

**Tervin** is most likely *tairbhein*, from *tarbh*, a *bull*—a masculine form on the same lines as feminine *-aig* names.

**Thanahine** = **tigh na h-aibhne**, *the house by the river*.

**Tromlee** (Loch) is peculiar. **Trom-lighe** is *night-mare*,

which this name almost certainly is; but *why* so is beyond me. There is, however, *lighe, a flood* (p. 77).

IV. On the west coast of Lorne there is quite a number of Norse names, but there are not many inland. Almost all the numerous small islands here are Norse in name: *Ars-a, Fladd-a, Luing, On-a, Orms-a, Shun-a, Tors-a*; and *Asknish, Degnish, Eardale*, are coast names. *Rarey* and *Scamadale* are inland.

V. The Church-names are Annat, Bailevicair with others, and Kilbrandon = **Cill Bhrannain** (p. 175), Kilbride = **Cill Brìgide** (p. 160), Kilchattan = **Cill Chatain** (p. 175), Kilchoan = **Cill Chomhghain** (p. 178), Kilchrenan = **Cill Chrethamhnain** (p. 177), Kilmahu = **Cill mo Choe**, Kilmaronog = **Cill mo Rònag** (p. 182), Kilmelfort (p. 57), Kilmore = **Cill Mhoire, Kilmary**, Kilmun = **Cill Mhunna** (p. 53).

VI. Personal names are:—

**Chaiscin** (Loch Mhic), perhaps better **Mhic-Ascaìn**; most probably a Norse name, akin to, if not the same as Mac-Askil, formed from *as-kettill* = *ans-kettill*, the sacrificial vessel (*kettle*) of the Norse Anses, or gods.

**Ciaran** (Eilean Mhic) is *the dusky one* (see Colours). This is the name and meaning of the two St. Kiarans. See p. 170.

**Choinnich** (Lochan diol). **Cain-neach** is *the fair one*, akin to the **Can-nach** and **Cainneachain** (*Eiriophorum*), or *bogwool-plant*. **Diol** here means *revenge* or *satisfaction*, and the name doubtless contains a history.

**Guaraig** (Lochan Mhic), the name *Kennedy*—of old Mac-Ualraig, from older Walrick. Mac-Quarrie, Mac-Wharrie, is a Gaelic name from *guaire*, *proud*, *noble*.

**Isaac** (Port Mhic) is a Biblical name.

**Lachlainn** (Bagh) is a Norse name in origin, very

likely **Loch-lann**, or *fiord-land*, itself; therefore, Mac-Lachlan = a son of Scandinavia.

**Mhàrtain** (Loch Mhic). Martin was the famous Saint "of Tours" (p. 161). The fox is strangely enough called **an gille Màrtain**, perhaps because March (Martius mensis) is his favourite time of activity.

**Nechtain** (Airidh). This is a Pictish name. It comes to us now as Macnaughton.

**Roich** (Lochan Mhic a'). *Munro*, which is of territorial origin, from Bun-roe, the foot of Roe (**Ruaidh**), a river in co. Derry, from which the family is said to have had origin (Mb).

(3) THE ISLANDS.—1 Shuna, 2 Luing, 3 Torsay, 4 Seil,  
5 Easdale, 6 Kerrara.

I. These are all Norse names.

II. There are no English names, excepting the persistent translations, Island, Sound, Point.

III. The Island in which a name occurs is indicated by its figure, as above given.

**Achafolla** (2) = **achadh** + **pholla**, the gen. pl. of **poll**, *puddle, pool*. There is no kinship with Inver-folla.

**Airdintrive** (6) is **Aird an t-snaimh**, the point at which, as in C., cattle swam across to the mainland.

**Aireig** (Sgeir na h-) (2), most likely fanciful—the *gland-shaped skerry*.

**Airdanamair** (2), **Aird** + **an** + **amair**, the bed of a *river, or stream channel*.

**Airdchoric** (6) = **àird a' choirce**, *oats- or corn-aird*.

**Bach** (island) (6) = **bac**, *a bank, hip, ledge of rock*. N. **bak**, of same meaning. It is used with the Art. **am bac**.

**Ballahuan** (2) = **baile a' chuain**, lit. *ocean steading* or

*farm*, which is quite pertinent, but the shade of difference in sound between **Cuan** and **Cumhang**, *narrow*, which also is appropriate, is very small.

**Bàrr-driseig** (2) = **Bàrr** + **dris**, *bramble*, + **aig**.

**Bheàrnaig** (Port a') (6), particularly fitting to the Port or bay, which is exactly *a notch* or *a bite*.

**Bhreaslaig** (Rudha) (6) = **Breasail** (pers. name) + **aig**.

**Crò** (Port nan) (1), *pen* (fold) *port*.

**Cùise** (Sgeir na) (2). It seems impossible to give this any meaning, but through **cos**, *a hollow*, or *a cave*, even if this gen. form is not familiar.

**Diar** (Sgeir) (2). With Sgeir bhuidhe, *yellow skerry*, Dubh sgeir, *black skerry*, and Glas-eilean all around it, one might readily think that this was **Ciar sgeir**, *hoary skerry*, especially because **Eilean mhic Ciarain** is next to it, within a quarter of a mile. I venture, however, to suggest that it is **an(d)iar sgeir**, *the west skerry*, with the old **d** of the art. reasserting itself, as we have it in **deigh** = **an(d)eigh**, *the ice*, **dearc** = **an(d)earc**, *the speckled (one)*, and in many other words.

**Ellery** (Hill) (6). See Eleraig (p. 56).

**Feundain** (Rudha na) (6), almost certainly *funntain*, *the benumbing from cold*. It is to be noticed that many Points are named in this way—from the exposure entailed in “negotiating” them. Compare **Rudha nan Amhlais-tean**, *V*.

**Figheadair** (Sgeir nam) (2), *the weavers' skerry*.

**Furachail** (Binnein) (2), the hill of *watchfulness*, or *the watch-hill*.

**Griàraidh** (Sgeir) (2), from **griadhradh**, *roasting*.

**Gylen** (na) (6) for **gillea**n, *lads*—figurative.

**Làir-bhan** (1), *the white mare*—on the same lines as the **gabhna**, *rocks*, which are so frequently thus named.

**Redegich** (Rudha) (6)—almost certainly for réitichidh, from réidh, *smooth*, réitich, put things *smooth, straight, correct, ready*.

**Scanach** (Rudha) (6). The word is Gaelic, but not now familiar. The root idea is in **sgan**, *disperse, scatter*.

**Scoul** (Eilean) (2)—most likely N. **skval**, *a squall*. It is not Gaelic.

**Slatrach** (6) is from **slat**, *a rod, or twig*, + **ar-ach**, *the place of twigs*, doubtless from the woody growth there.

**Toberonochy** (2) = **tobar Dhonnchaidh**, *Duncan's well*.

IV. **Orosaig** (Eilean) (6) is Norse, and possibly Cullipol (2).

V. The Church appears, perhaps, in **Eilean mhic Ciarain** (2), and in **Port Phàtruic** (6).

VI. **Rudha mhic Mharcuis**—*Mac-Marquis*, from old Gael. **marc**, *a horse*, still remaining in the spoken language as **marc-aich**, *a rider*.

**Lachlainn** (Bagh). See p. 61.



## APPIN—AN APUINN

I have for convenience of reference included in this name the whole district from the River Awe to Loch Leven. I know that in doing so I am doing wrong, because the real Appin was never so extensive as this; but as my purpose is only to examine names, I hope this transgression may be overlooked.

I. The meaning of the district name is clearly *the Abbeylands* pertaining to the Abbacy of Lismore—of **Cill-mo-Luag**—to which full reference is made under the Church-names. The older form of the name is *Abdaine*. It is frequent all over the range of the Columban Church. It takes the Lat. form *Abbatia* and *Abthania* in old documents. The Gaelic *p* comes of the double *b*—**Coromarbhsat in Apaidh et xv viros do Sruithibh na Cille** (Iona). *An. Ulst.*, A.D. 986.

II. There are not many English names in this large area. Such names as *Black-crofts* are translations. *Seabank* is a new name. *Dallens* is an English plural form, added to an already plural Gaelic name — **dail-ean**, *fields*.

For purposes of reference, I divide the district into two parts.

## (1) WEST OF LOCH ETIVE TO THE SEA

The names here are easily understood by one who knows them, but many of them have been spoiled exceedingly by an English affectation, which, strangely enough, has come from within and not from that outside

pressure which is so excusable on the Clyde border, for instance. Hardly a name has escaped this perversion on the low ground. This is now, however, done with. The names are as beautiful as ever when stripped of their outlandish garments.

**Achacha** is *achadh a' chadha*, *the field of the path*.

**Achnacone** is *Achadh-nan-con*, *the dog-field*.

**Achnacree** is *Achadh-na-craoibhe*, *tree-field*.

**Ardentinny** is *àird an teine*, *the fire height (note)*.

**Ardtur** = *ard an tùir*, *the height of the tower*.

**Acharra** = *achadh a' charraigh*, *the field of the standing stones*, from *carragh*. The standing stones are there now.

**Ardochay** is *ardach*, with the loc. ending *-aidh*, from *ard*, *high*, + *ach* + *aidh*.

**Ardseile** = *àrd* + *seile*. This last part is very old. Adamnan, in his *Life of St. Columba*, calls the Ardnamurchan river *Sale*, and it is *Selli* in D. L. The source of the name is akin to, or the same as, that of *seile*, *saliva*, still remaining in the Gaelic-spoken language—e.g. *a' ghlas sheile*, *the water-brash*. Although there is no river named *Seile* near this name now, it may almost be taken for certain that the stream flowing into Kintalen = *Cinn an t-sàilean*, was so named in the past. The word must have been a general term, much the same as "Water" is used now in Kintyre—but very long ago.

**Baileveolain** = *baile a' bheòl-ain*, from *baile* + a dim. of *beul*, *a mouth*, or *Beolan*, *a person name*.

**Balloch**, with accent on the first syllable, is *bealach*, *a pass*.

**Barcaldine** = *am Bàrr calltuinn*, *the hazel-Barr*.

**Benderloch** is *beinn (ea)dar(dhà)loch*, *the ben between the two lochs*—Loch Etive and Loch Creran. This is now the district name, but it must have had origin from

some mountain, almost certainly the very fine **beinn bhreac** (2324). Compare Beinn-ralloch and Beinn-mhòr-luich—the *Ben of the great loch* (Lomond)—which shows a peculiar genitive, the same as in Beochlich.

**Bhocain** (Tòrr a') "*bogie*" hill (see Hill-names).

**Blarcreen** = **blàr** + **crithinn**, *aspen-field*.

**Camus an fhàis** is *growth Bay*, a reference, no doubt, to the good growth which one sees in a specially sheltered **Camus**. This is a very fine example of a **Camus**.

**Chrinlet** (Eas a'). **Eas a' chrin-leathaid**, from **crìon**, *very small*, and **leathad**; p. 21.

**Creran** (Loch), named upon the river (*note*).

**Cùirte** (Camus na), *court-bay*. I cannot say why it is so named.

**Culcharan** = **Cùl**, *the back of*, + **càrn** in pl.

**Churalain** (Beinn) = **Cùr** (Hill-names) + **al** + **ain**.

**Dalachulish** = **dail a' Chaolais**, *the field by the Narrow* (**Caolas**) on Loch Creran.

**Dalnarat** = **dail na tràghad**, *the field by the shore*. This is an old genitive form. We find **traighe**, and even **traigh**, frequently in recent names, but **tràgha** and this **tràghad** are the old genitives.

**Duirinnis** is Norse, = **dýr**, *a deer*, or wild animal, + **nes**, and I have wondered if the best explanation of **Duror** may not be found in the same direction; as **dýr** + **â-r**, with some word lost at the beginning—some word governing the genitive form.

**Etive** (Loch, River, and Glen). This is not an easy name. Many explanations have been offered, but none has been satisfactory. If we examine the name, one or two things are clear. First, the name is Gaelic essentially in sound and form. The terminal part, which we should expect to take the genitive form, is doubtless the locative

case-form, with which the Gaelic ear is quite familiar. The stem, then, is the only difficulty. There are several possibilities. There is *éite* and *éit-eadh*, a *stretching* or *extending*, referred to the same root as is found in Lat. *ì-re*, to go. This is quite pertinent and appropriate to this fine far-extending river and glen. There is again *éit-ich*, *fierce*, or *gloomy*, although this, being an adjective, seems to be out of the question. And there is *éit-eag*, a *white pebble*, which could easily give name to the river. I prefer to offer another rendering. The old Gaelic for *cattle* was *ét* and even *ét-ibh*, the exact form as it stands. This is the root element in *feudail*, *cattle*, in even the present-day speech = (f)-*ét-ail*. My defence of this interpretation, or rather my great witness, is that the grand *Buachail-Étive*, the *herdsman of Etive*, is there looking after his cattle in the fine valley below. The name comes, as is almost always the case, from the river, and comparative instances are abundant—*e.g.* *Echaig* and *Gour*, from *horse* and *goat*, in the rivers of that name.

**Faodhail** (Loch). See General Terms, p. 15.

**Fasnacloich** = *fasadh na cloiche*. The first part is a fairly common element in names. It carries the meaning of a point of land, level always and green, with a dwelling-house, or steading, upon it. The **Fasadh-feàrna** on Loch-Eil is a good instance.

**Fiannaidh** (Sgòrr nam) = *sgòrr nam fiann(t)-aidh*, the *heath-berry*, *sgòrr*.

**Fraochaidh** is the *heather-y* place ; a good example of the locative form, which usually appears with terminal *-ie* and *-y*, as in *Largie*, *Lorgie*, *Tangy*, &c.

**Gaoirean** (Allt nan). It is strange not to find this word in the dictionaries, but it is a well-known Gaelic word. It means the dry dung of animals.

**Invernahyle** = *inbher na h-iola*. Iola here takes a Gaelic genitive form, but whether the word itself is Gaelic is open to doubt. Iola is Gaelic for *a fishing-rock*, and it is quite possible here, but it is not probable. It is very interesting to notice that while this name takes the Gaelic article, Inverfolla does not. The river Folla is not now so named, although Inverfolla is there, showing without doubt that Foll-a was the name of the stream which joins the Iola, about a mile up. There are one or two points of interest. Iola, Illie, and Isla are frequent river-names. They are very old, and they almost certainly convey the same meaning. The root idea has been referred to the same as that in Lat. *i-re*, *to go*, or in this, *to flow*. The name may, therefore, be old Keltic. On the other hand, we must observe that the Norseman shows himself distinctly in this neighbourhood. There is *Eriska* and *Shuna*, and especially *Glenstocka-dale* in the next valley, so that with the terminal *-á*, the Norse for *river*, in both Iola and Fólla, we may be excused a suspicion that both names are really Norse.

**Kintalen** is *Cinn an t-sailean*, *the head of the Sàilean*, and a very good example of a Sàilean.

**Làir** (Lochan an), *level ground*, a plain, a floor, in the sense that "the floor of the glen" is spoken of—in fact làr is the same word as *floor* in origin.

**Leich** is for *leth-ach*, and *leideag* is of the same kind = *leth-ad-ag*, where *leth* is a *half*, or a *side*, of a valley or district.

**Lora** is "Ossianic" and modern.

**Lurgan** (Beinn mo), *a shank, shin-bone, tibia*. One of the body-names (p. 7), although it is awkward to find the accent on *mò* in the Survey rendering.

**Muidhe** (Leac nam) is a *churn*—the flag-stone of the churns.

**Pollanach** = poll, a *mud-hole* or *pool* + an-ach.

**Salachail** = saile, *willow*, + choill, *wood*.

**Selma** is from the same source as **Lora**.

**Sgluich** (Beinn) and **Sguiliaird** (Beinn) I am not able to explain satisfactorily.

**Shenvalie** = sean-bhaile, *old farm*. This is Shambelly, in Bute !

**Sian** = sìthean, a *fairy-knowe*.

**Stairchaol** = staidhir, a *stair*, + caol.

**Teitheil** (Rudha and River) is from teth, *hot*, + ail = (s)amhail, *similis*. This is most likely the explanation of the curious name **Teatle** (p. 72).

**Trilleachan** (Ard and Beinn), the *pie'd oyster-catcher*.

**Trio Chadain** (Loch and Achadh), trioach, a *stripe*, + ad + an.

**Tynribbie** = tigh an ribidh. Ribe is a *snare*, from verb rib, *snare*, therefore the house of *the snaring*, without doubt ; but what is the history of this house ?

## (2) EAST OF LOCH ETIVE

**Ceitlein** (Allt and Beinn)—cannot now explain.

**Cochull** is the same essentially as Lat. *cucullus*, a *hood*, but in Gaelic usage it is applied to the outer skin, or husk, of fruit, as cochull cnò, a *nut husk*.

**Coileter** = coill, *wood* + leitir (p. 21).

**Copagach** (Meall). Cop + ag-ach, the *docken-ach*, the place of the cop-ag, which is dim. of cop, a *top*, or *head*, akin to German *kopf*, a *head*, referring doubtless to the floral *head* of the plant.

**Crulaist.** The H. S. D. says *a rocky hill*, and Mb. suggests a derivation from *cruaidh*, *hard*.

**Dalmally** is certainly from a different source from that of Kilmaillie, which is explained (p. 75). The native pronunciation encourages the interpretation of a *wet land*, which is, in all instances, apparently correct.

**Dalness** is *dail an eas*, *the field by the (rough) stream*.

**Dochaird** = *doch* + *àird*, from *dabhach*, an old land-measure at first, and meaning *a vat*, but in some peculiar way has got transferred to be a measure of land, as, say, so much as *a vat of corn* would sow.

**Dychlie** = *dubh* + *choille*, *the dark wood*.

**Èilde** (Lairig). *Làirig* (p. 17) + *èilde*, gen. sing. of *eilid*, *a hind*.

**Eileandonich** is *eilean* + *dòmhnach*, Lat. *dominica*.

**Eunaich** (Beinn) is from *eun*, *a bird*; so, *eunach* is *a birding*, therefore *a shooting*.

**Fiodhan** (River) = *fiodh*, *wood*, + *an*, which last part is frequent in river-names. This is *the wooded river*. This same word is the name for the strong wooden frame in which the native cheese is, or at any rate used to be, shaped.

**Geàrr** (Eas na) is *the rough mountain stream (eas) of the hare*. The word *geàrr*, for *hare*, is not commonly used in Argyll, but in this name I think it is unquestionable. The word is really the Adj. *geàrr*, *short*; and in old Gaelic the *hare* was *geàrr-fhiadh*, *short deer*. The adjective only now remains for the whole name.

**Ghartain** (Lairig and Allt a'), a variant of *goirtean*.

**Glenorchy** is in Gaelic *gleann ùrchaidh* (*note*).

**Glenure** is *gleann iubhair*, *the glen of the yew-tree*.

**Inion** is *na h-inghnean*, *the nails of the hand*, another of the body-names. This is more likely the correct rendering of Inens, C.

**Innishail**, said to be *Paul's island* (*note*).

**Inveresragan** = *inbher* + *eas-ar-ag-ain*. *Eas* is a rough mountain stream, and a water-fall.

**Inverfolla**. See *Invernahyle*.

**Glenstrae** = *gleann* + *s(t)rath*? (*note*).

**Hallater** (*Allt*) = *allt thaobh*, *side*, + *leitir*.

**Inver-ghiùbhsachain** = *inbher* + *ghiùbhsach* + *ain*. See *Fiodhain* for meaning of terminal *-ain*.

**Inverkinglas** is another *inver*, and points to a **Fin-glas**, although it is then difficult to account for the **k** in the name, unless it be for *Cinn-glas*, *the end*, or the old *inver* of the *glas* = *river*.

**Inverlochy**, another *inver*, of *lòch-aidh*, the terminal being a common river-ending, like *-aig* and *-ain*. *Lòch* is an old Gaelic word for *dark*; therefore, the *inver* of the *dark river*.

**Leven** and **Liver**, from *lighe*, a flood, stream, overflow (pp. 59, 77).

**Mhòirlich** (*Meall a'*) the gen. of *mòr* + *loch*.

**Oe** (*Abhainn* and *Gleann*). "*Fionn*," who knows, if any one does, assures me that this is **Abhainn** and **Gleann nodha**, *nodha* meaning, of course, *new*, or *recent*. If there was any distinct change in the river course the name would be sufficiently explained. If there may be fundamental objection to this, which I certainly cannot see, we must fall back upon the Norse *haug-r*, a "*howe*," mound, or *cairn*, as the essential part.

**Riaghain** (*Meall*). *Riagh* is a *snare* (round the neck), and *riaghan* is, therefore, *the gallows*. I do not know the local history.

**Starav** (*Beinn*). This can only be the same stem as in **Starabhanach**, a *strong, stout person*, or even animal.

**Teatle** (*River* and *Aird*). See *Teitheil*, p. 70.



IV. The Norse names in this district are few. They are all on the west : **Eriska**, **Shuna**, **Glen-stocka-dal**, **Diurinnis**. The last two are hybrids—the last taking the Gaelic **innis** instead of the Norse **-a = ey**.

V. Church-names also are not numerous. There is a nameless Kiel, and **Ard-Chattain** (p. 175), and **Eilean Choinnich**, and **Eilean Mhuinde**, and **Beinn Mhaol-Chaluim**, and that is all.

VI. The Personal names are in **Baile mhic Cailein**, the farm of **Mac-Cailein**. The names here need not have reference to the family of Argyll, although **Mac-Cailein** is the familiar Gaelic name for the Duke of Argyll. The name is simply *Colin's son*.

**Dhomhnaill** (Sgòrr)—already explained.

**Fhionnlaigh** (Beinn), *Mount-Finlay*. The name seems to be Gaelic in both parts = **fionn**, *fair*, + **laoch**, *a hero*.

**Ghoiridh** (Coire). This name is common, especially among the Macleods and Macdonalds of the Western Isles, which would suggest that its origin was Norse, as it almost certainly was, even if it travelled all the way round from the Teutonic *Gott-fried*, "*God's peace*," or its forebears.

### (3) LISMORE = **Lios-Mór**

I. The name of the island is Gaelic in both parts—**Lios**, *a garden*, and the adj. **mór**. This is the ordinary and local acceptance, but in older Gaelic **lios** was *a stronghold*, or *fort*; and, for so small an island, it is remarkable how many Dùns, or *forts*, are there : **an Dùn**, *the fort*; **Sean Dùn**, *the old fort*; **Dùn mór**, *the great fort*, from which perhaps the name; **Dùn-chrùban**, **Dùn-cuillein**, and **Acha-Dùn**, *fort-field*, from a nameless fort

on the west coast—so that a suspicion arises whether the name may not be from the *great fort*.

II. There are no English names.

III. **Bachuill** seems to be **bâ + choill**, *cattle-wood*, but in a district so full of the Church it is not impossible that this is from gen. of **bachull**, *a crozier*, with some governing word fallen out.

**Balnasack** = **baile nan sac**, *sack-farm*.

**Choirce** (Tìr a'), *the corn-land*.

**Dobhrain** (Bagh clach àn), *otter-stone Bay*.

**Eithir** (Sloc an), from **eathar**, *a ship, boat*.

**Faire** (Tom na), *watching, guarding—the watch-hill*.

**Sgeir sgoraig**, *the notch (sgor), skerry*, both parts possibly Norse *sker* and *skor* + *aig*.

IV. **Bernera** (island), **Frackersaig**, and **Pladda** (island) are Norse; **Rudha àird-éirinnish**, **Eilean Musdile**, **Eilean Loch Oscair**, and **Lochan Treshtil** are mixtures.

V. The Church names are numerous, for the size of the island. **Cill-ma-luag** was the name of the principal church, and there is **Port-ma-luag** on the north-east coast (see p. 172). There is also **Port Cill-chiarain**, Killeen = **Cill-sheathain** = *John*, Killandrist = **Cill-Andraais**, and **Sloc a' Bhrigide** and **Ach-na-croise**, *the field of the cross*, and the remains of a chapel on Bernera.

VI. Personal names are wanting.

## KILMAILLIE—CILL A' MHÀILUIBH

I. This name has hitherto been made into Kilmary, but it is quite impossible to accept this rendering. The natives always call the district **Cill a' mhàiluibh**, as given above, a name which is well worth examining. There can be no doubt that the first syllable is an old *Kil*-name; and because of that the second part must be in genitive form. It is so. The Article is in the genitive, and so also must be the Noun following, with which it agrees, and both forms are masculine, and not feminine. The part now written **màil** is old **mael**, *the tonsured one* (Lat. *calvus*), which we have remaining with us in the name Macmillan (**Macmhaoilean**, or **Mac(a'gh)-ille mhaoil**) to this day. The terminal syllable is the only difficulty. Its form would suggest a dative plural case, but that is quite impossible when all the rest is a gen. sing. masculine. This compels us to see that this part cannot then be a Noun, but an Adjective, and without doubt **dubh**, *black*. The name, therefore, means *the Kil of the black monk*, or of **Maeldubh**, for though the term is clearly a general term in its origin, it seems to have hardened into the personal name of certain men of the brotherhood, and that long ago.

It is surely interesting to find that **Fintan**, whose name is so well known in this neighbourhood, was a **mael-dubh**. In *Kal.* under Oct. 20, we find **pais eutaic lafintan maeldubh**, *the passion of Eutychius with Fintan Maeldubh*. This seems to be as suggestive as anything can well be, from that long time, that Fin(t)an of **Eilean Fhianain** was the founder of the Black-friars' Church of Kilmaillie, of which, even to this day, part of the walls remains in the old churchyard. He may have been

called **Maeldubh** from personal appearance, but far more likely, as I have suggested, from the habit of the brotherhood. Those black-friars were the historical forebears of the present Benedictines. It was Maeldubh, or a **mael-dubh**, who founded the famous Benedictine Abbey at Glastonbury, in Somerset, which, according to Cormac, was "a town of Alban," and which, strangely enough, has a very large place in very old Gaelic tradition. A Mailduff also was founder of Malmesbury, in Wilts, the very fine abbey of which still includes part of the walls of the old monastery. The old name of Malmesbury was Mailduff's-burg.

The old names, or forms, of the Lochaber Kilmaillie are: Kilmalduff (1304), Kilmald (1372), Kilmalzhe (1492), Kilmalye (1493), Kilmalyhe (1495), Kilmailzie (1695)—all which goes to show that the origin of the name here offered is almost certainly correct.

In a confirmation by Robert III. of certain lands in this district to "Reginal de Insulis," there occurs "terra de Kylmald," with a stroke across the stem of the **d**, indicating a final vocalic syllable which was not written. This again suggests that the gen. of **dubh** is the last part of the name, and this finally gives the native pronunciation to complete exactness.

It must, however, be mentioned that the stream flowing by the church and churchyard of Kilmaillie is **Allt cuil a' Chiarain**, the burn flowing by *St. Ciaran's Retreat*. If I knew that Ciaran was a **mael dubh**, which he most likely was, I should have put him for Fintan in all that goes before. The Annaid, quite near, with other things, gives the suggestion that there must have been a considerable monastery near to where now stands the parish church.

II. There are no English names, but there has been a steady tendency to give English form to the native names.

III. There are some very interesting and old names.

**Achdaliew** is locally pronounced **achadh dà leth-ó**, with this last sound short, the only doubtful part of the name. With **leth-bheinn**, implying clearly another **leth-bheinn**, or *half-hill*, or hill on one side with another opposite, standing over the **achadh**, I offer **Achadh dà leth-(th)aobh**, *the field with the two (half) hill-sides*.

**Banavie**=**banbh-aidh**, *the place of pigs*. One reliable authority gives **banbh** as name for land left unploughed for a year—but there is little room to doubt the meaning here given. The end part is that so often met as *-ie*, and *-y*.

**Chamaghail** is for **cam + dail**, therefore rightly a' **cham(a)dhail** *the curved field*; it is in a bend of the river Lochy.

**Chléireig** (Aodann), is clearly **aodann**, *a face* (p. 7) + a stream name now lost. Compare **Beag-aig**, **Sùil-eig**, quite near.

**Corpach**, see p. 14.

**Dogha** (Allt) and **macan-dogha** is *burdock*.

**Drumnasaille** is **druim + saill**, *fat*, rather than *saile*, *willow*—evidently a good farm.

**Dubh-lighe** and **Fionn-lighe**, *the black* and *the white rivers*. This **lighe** is not now used in the spoken language, but the root **li-** is frequent in river-names. In Welsh, a stream or flood is **lli**, which indicates the Gaelic pronunciation even better than the native form.

**Gulvain** = **gaothail + bheinn**, *windy mount*.

**Loy** (river and Glen)=**laoigh**, from **laogh**, *calf*. Compare **Gour**, **Eachaig**, **Tairbh**, &c., into which animal

names come. The river is really outside Argyll, but I have taken it in as an illustration.

**Làragain** (Gleann) must be from **làr**, *floor* (p. 69), or from **làirig**, which is doubtful.

**Muirshirlich** is very interesting. The correct native name is **mor-**, or, perhaps better, **mur-siar-luich**, and I venture a peculiar rendering. I take the last syllable to be the gen. of **loch**, as in Ben Vorlich = **beinn a' mhòr-luich**; **siar** is *west*—the motion-to form; and the **mur** is, I suggest, for old **mul**, *an eminence*, and I think I have met the name so spelled in records. This is the first point from which a traveller coming down the Great Glen sees the western sea—Loch-Linnhe; therefore, *the eminence of the Western Loch* (Linnhe)—*Se non è vero è bon trovato!*

**Onfhaidh** (Meall) is *stormy hill*.

**Putachan**. See in K. (p. 30).

**Srachdach** (an), better **Sracach**, from **srac**, *tear*; therefore, *the torn hill*.

**Sùileig** (river), is from **sùil**, *the eye*, perhaps having reference to the "eye" of its source. This is the gen. form of **sùil-eag**, governed by, say **abhainn** and **gleann**.

**Uamhachan** (na h-) = **na h-uamh** + **ach-an**, a peculiar form of the plural not now used much. The Survey has the name as **Wauchan**! It is **Nahoacho** in a grant of James IV. (1493), which perhaps deserves quoting. The grant is to **Johannus Makgilleoun de Lochboye** of lands (1) "in dominio de Morwarn" he gives the lands of **Achenbeg**, **Yecomys**, **Kowelkelis**, **Achafors**, **Achenagawyn**, **Henying beg**, **Areangus**, **Corosmedyll**, **Cleymland**, **Carmawin**.

(2) "In Locheale infra dominium de Lochabria"—**terras de Banvy**, **Mikeannich**, **Fyelin**, **Creglong**, **Corpich**,

Inverate, Achído, Killmalye, Achmoleag, Drumfair-molach, Faneworwille, Fasefarna, Stonsonleak, Correbeag, Achitolleoun, Drumnasalze, Culenape, Nahoacho, Clerechaik, Mischerolach, Crew, Salachan, et dimidiam Lyncally.

(3) And Achlenan, Drummyn, Achywale, Auchtycht, in Arnfflane, Aldachonnych, Dowderre, Yaore, Dernamart, Barr—"in dominio de Moravia (sic.) Vic., Inverness."

This is a very good example of the very mixed forms of these old documents. They are wretchedly done, by persons who knew nothing at all of the names nor of their meanings, and evidently were not keen to know. One can see at a glance that there is not much to be learned from documents such as this, and certainly nothing adequate to the time wasted in examining them. One breath of the native speech, guided by the true native ear and understanding, is worth more than "departments" of this stuff—for the present purpose, and perhaps for any or every purpose.

IV. There are no Norse names in Kilmaillie.

V. No Church-names—except the district name, and one or two side-names already mentioned.

VI. There is not one Personal name, and that surely is not because there was not a man in Kilmaillie or Lochaber worth naming in this way. There were many.

## ARD-GOWER—ÀIRD-GHOBHAR

I. The first part of the name is àird certainly, and the second part has been always taken to be the gen. plural of **gobhar**, *a goat*. The meaning of the name would thus, and therefore, be *the height of the goats*, or the high goat-land, and there is nothing in the name to contradict this rendering. Some have, however, raised doubts, because the natives say **Gleann na gobhar**, so making the word **gobhar**, or the word so pronounced, apply primarily to the river, from which it was, as is almost always the case, carried on to the land-names of the Glen and the district. I have heard **Corran àirde goibhre** spoken of locally, which would seem to be confirmation that **gobhar**, *a goat*, is the essential in the name, unless indeed it may be taken to point another way. This expression uses the singular genitive; the district name uses a plural. The singular form, without doubt, refers to the river-name as singular, and whether it is a piece of folk etymology is not easy to determine. The river-names of Gaelic are feminine, but that may be because they follow the grammatical gender of **abhainn**, *a river*, which is feminine always. The river-name of the district is the Gour, assumed to be **gobhar**, and this is neither impossible nor improbable. It is remarkable how many rivers are named upon animals. A difficulty has been raised in that the natives say **Gleann na gobhar**, which would throw the whole burden of the name upon the river, and would leave the meaning of the river-name in doubt; but, on the other hand, it has been denied altogether that the article **na** appears in the name, but only a bridge-tone, as **Gleann (a) gobhar** which helps, or is necessary



to, the pronunciation. **Lochan nan gobhar** is on the river course, and regarding this or its clear meaning there can be no doubt. So it is almost quite safe to say that the Gaelic **gobhar**, a *goat*, is here the principal element in the name.

II. There are no English names, and no attempt to translate.

III. The grammar and form of names are good. In fact, one wonders whether the touch of a vanished hand, that of the lovely man and scholar of Kilmaillie, is not yet visible in these names on both sides of Loch Eil. There are not many troublesome names.

**Achafubil** = **achadh a' phubail**, *tent-field* (Lat. *papilio*; Eng. *pavilion*).

**Arihoulain** = **àiridh Ualain** = *Valentine's àiridh*, a name which was not uncommon in the old time.

**Beathaig** (Màm), a stream-name + **màm** (Hills).

**Bheitheachain** (Creag) is *beithe*, *birch*, + **ach-ain**.

**Blathaich** = **blàth**, *warm, sheltered*, + **aidh**.

**Callop** = **calpa**, *the calf of the leg*—a body-name.

**Chreagain** (Sron a'), would point to *the rock*—*i.e.* *knowe*—but the local pronunciation is **Sròn a' chrith-eag-ain**, which would, if that was possible, and I am not able to say, make the name *aspen-tree knowe* or *nose*.

**Clovulin** = **cladh**, *burial-place* by the mill.

**Conaghleann** = the river-name + **gleann** (*note*).

**Conaire**, from **con**, *dogs*, or **con**, *together* (*note*).

**Duisky** = **dubh-uisge**, *black water stream*.

**Garbhan** = **garbh**, *rough*, + dim. **-an** (p. 41).

**Iall** (Loch), from **iall** (pl.), *a thong* (*note*).

**Salachan** = **seileach-an**, *the place of the willows*, + dim. **-an**.

**Sleaghach** (Doire), from **sleagh**, *a spear*, + **ach**.

**Tarbert**, here, as in other places, is *from Loch* (Eil) *to Loch* (Shiel). See p. 20.

IV. There are a few Norse names along the coast. **Camus nan Gall** and **Eilean nan Gall** are a memorial of the *Viking-r*. **Trisleig** is a Norse-named bay. Inverscaddle, which is **inbher-scat-dail**, is Norse in its last two parts. The river may have been named **Scat** by the Norseman, whence **Scat-dale**, which the native thought was the river-name, and he prefixed his own **inbher**. The only Norse word which seems to fit the name is **scat**, a *tax*, or *rent*, and therefore it might be *rent-dale*, for some reason of *Viking-r* economics that perhaps can never be known. Inversanda = **inbher sand** + **á**, *river*. **Feith**, a *bog*—**Feith-raoicedail** suggests Norse, but it is a simple and common Gaelic form from **raoic**, *roar*, or *bellow*.

V. There is only one Church-name, **Kiel**, in the district.

VI. **Bheathain** (Stob mhic) is in English form Macbean, Macbain, Macvean, &c., from **beatha**, *life*—therefore, “son of life.”

**Eacharn** (Sgòrr mhic). The name comes from **each**, *horse*, + **tighearna**, *lord*, or *knight*. There is in the *Book of Leinster*, referring to a raid into Kintyre, **tain teora nerc ecdach**, with which it is surely interesting to compare Ptolemy's *Epidium Promontorium*, and Prof. MacKinnon's observation that this was the primal home of the MacEacherns.

**Mhic a' Phee** (his Camus). This is one of the oldest personal Gaelic names in existence. It is **dubh** + **sith**, *the black* (one) *of peace*. It is in Irish names common as **Duffy**. Its plan and concept go far away beyond those of even our old names.

SUNART—**SUAINEART**

I. This is a purely Norse name = *Sweyn's fjord* or *frith*. The name is found as Swynwort (1392), Swynfurd (1499), Soynfort (1505), Swnorthe (1517), Swynfurd (1543), called "Isle of Shunard" (1667), and Swenard (1723)—all of which leaves no doubt as to the origin of the name. The "Isle of Shunard" has its explanation in "The Tarbert" from Loch Linne to Loch Sunart, although it does not make an isle of Sunart but of Morven—in the same sense as Kintyre was made an island (p. 20). It often happens that a sea-name is transferred to the land and is again, as here, also carried back to the sea. **Suaineart** was a sea-name at first; then, the district was named Suaineart, and then the district name was again carried back to the sea—as **Loch Sunart**. There is a **Suaine-port** a few miles down the loch, and Loch Sween in K. is almost certainly of the same origin. The Sweyn who made his mark was a Dane, father of the Canute of British history. He overcame Norway about A.D. 1000, and England some years later, and in the meantime the whole west of Scotland.

II. The English names are few, and they are mostly all translations, like Longrigg, for **Iomaire fada** and Woodend for old **Ceann na coille**. Scotstown is a memory of the time when Lowlanders went there to work the lead-mines. It is remarkable that they were looked upon as "Scots" and strangers. Bellgrove is modern, and strongly out of place.

III. The Gaelic names are good. They are not well rendered by the Survey, but to me, knowing them

well, they present no difficulty. Some are, however, of sufficient interest for note.

**Achnanlia** on Loch Sunart, even if familiar, offers suggestions. There is old *lia*, a *stone*, which fits it perfectly, and there is *liagh*, a *ladle*, which also is quite possible, if we remember the constant factor of imagination and of accident in these names—therefore, *achadh nan lia*, *stone-field*, or *achadh nan liagh*, *ladle-field*.

**Albannaich** (Beinn an) and **Sròn a' Bhreatunnaich** are peculiar, in that the "Scot" and the "Briton" are marked and commemorated as outsiders. The whole history of Argyll is consistent with this feeling. The "Scot" is historically supposed to have come from Ireland—from the Irish Scotia—but one thing is absolutely certain, that he has not left a single fragment of his name in Argyll, and it is certain also that he was looked upon as coming from east of Drum-Alban, whatever the explanation may be, rather than from the west. It is almost certain that the Briton of Strath-Clyde found his way more or less effectively into the county, as many of the names show.

**Aisridh** (Meall an) is for *ais-ruighe*. The *ais* here is only heard in a few phrases of the language now, usually with Verbs of Motion, *e.g.* *thainig è air ais*, *chaidh è air ais*, *he came (or went) back*. The best rendering would be something like *counter-ruighe*, with which may be compared *oi(d)-tir*, and *frith-allt*, and many other names.

**Anaheilt** is for *àth*, *the ford* of the *eilid* (*éilde*) *a hind*.

**Camusine** is for **Camus eidhinn**, *Ivy-bay*.

**Ceanna garbh**, on Loch Shiel, shows a peculiar development in the final *a* of the first part. There is

no reason to look upon the form as plural, and this *a* is very rarely met with in singular forms, unless it be in river (glen) names, such as **Gleann(a) Comhann**, **Gleann(a) Màilidh**, **Gleann(a) Cingidh**, in which I have myself ventured to suggest that the Article appeared—**Gleann na Comhann**, **Gleann na Màilidh**, **Gleann na Cingidh**, and I must say that I am even now more strongly of this mind. The meaning of **Ceanna garbh** is *the rough head-land*, which is quite descriptive.

**Còmh-dhail**—*pr. cò-ail* (Carn mór na) is 1800 feet up, on the western shoulder of big Ben Resipol, *the big cairn of the meeting*, the great cairn which marked the meeting-place where the kind people of Moidart and Loch Shiel “met the body” on its way to Eilean Fhianain, borne so far upon the strong shoulders of the men of the Sunart side. The poor clay, whatever its merit or demerit in life, became in death the sacred common property and responsibility of all, when he who was the strongest and best forgave most, and forgot everything but his duty to the highest. This name remains, and let us hope the **Càrn mór**, for ever, as the memory and memorial of an exquisite humanity, and of a manliness which “the miserable sons of arithmetic and of prudence” have not understood, and have not now any hope of ever being able to understand. “**Mar ghath soluis do m’ anam féin tha sgeula na h-aimsir a dh-fhalbh.**”

an **Crasg**, on Loch Shiel, is an *across-land*. It is from the same source as *cross* and **cross-ag**, which latter would be possible only for the grammatical gender-form, which for **crasg** here is Masculine, and makes **crass-ag** not possible.

**Dig** is here always *a ditch* There are three of them

flowing into the lower end of Loch Shiel—**Dìg na crìche**, *the march ditch*, **Dìg a' bhogha**, *the bow ditch*, and **Dìg an sgùlain**, *the ditch of the wicker-basket*.

**Crudh an eich**, also on Loch Shiel, is *the horse-shoe*, simply descriptive of the shape of the Point. There is another at Kerrara.

**Loch an Duileat** is for **Loch an duibh-leathaid**, named upon the *leitir dhubh* rising from it.

**Creag an Eighich** is *the rock of the echo*—although, in speech, the first syllable of **eighich** has become short, where it is naturally long.

**Frith-allt** (*Leac nam*), the *leac* of the parallel streams, or the streams *against* each other. This **frith** is the old Gaelic Preposition, which now remains in the language as **ri**, e.g. **riumsa** = **frith-um-sa**, Lat. *vers-us me*. There are about twenty of these streams within a mile and a half, beyond **Goirtean-Mhoirein**, flowing practically parallel into Loch Shiel.

**Lochan bac an lochain** is a peculiar Gaelic repetition. The **bac** is named on the **lochan**, and then again the **Lochan** is named on **Bac an lochain**.

**Torran nam mial** shows a peculiar change in the value of a word. **Mial** now is *a louse* always, but in old combinations it simply means *an animal*, or, rather, a wild animal, whence **mial-chù**, *a deer-hound*, or wild animal hound. The name was applied to a deer, hare, whale, &c.

**Meille** (*Coire na*) is the “corrie” of the *cheek-side*. **Meill** is old Gaelic for the *cheek*, and with the name may be compared the Norse name **Kina-bus**, *Chin-town*, l. This **meille** is the genitive of **meill**.

**Polloch** = **poll** (an) **locha**, *Loch-pool*.

**Resaurie** = (an) **ruighe samhraidh**, *the summer sheiling* (see p. 19).

**Sàilean** (see p. 19). There are three Sàileans in the west-southern corner of Sunart—the **Sàilean** proper, **Sàilean nan cuileag** (*Midge-Sàilean*), and **Sàilean an eòrna**, the *barley-Sàilean*. They are all good examples. The **Sàilean Dubh**, on Loch Shiel, is interesting as a **Sàilean** where there is no *sàile*—that is, no *sea-water*. It is either a comparison with, or an imitation of, the sea-name, or is it a memory of the time, long ago, when Loch Shiel itself was sea. This last is altogether unlikely.

**Slinndrich** (Tòrr na). This word is not given in our dictionaries, but it means, as nearly as possible, the “jingling” of a chain, or a sound of that kind. The “clanking” of a heavy chain is not near the meaning, nor the “tinkling” of a small chain. It is the medium sound—which I have heard applied to the noise produced by shells on the sea-shore falling and rubbing over each other.

IV. Norse names are not many. **Sunart** itself, and **Resipol**, and **Scammadal** are clearly Norse. The Cnap need not be looked upon as Norse, and Ariundail is doubtful.

V. The Church names are all on Loch Shiel. **Eilean Fhianain** (St. Finan’s Isle) is there, about six miles up the loch, and his Chapel is on the island, and his Well is on the mainland (**Tobar Fhianain**). In the near neighbourhood are **Camus-Bhlathain** (p. 175), **Goirtean Mhoirean** (p. 185), and **Allt MhicCiarain**. The name of Glenfinnan is not related to the name of St. Finnan. It is **Gleann Fhion-abhainn**, *the glen of the clear, or bright, river*, pronounced natively, as nearly as possible, the same as the name MacKinnon = **Mac find-gen** = *fair-born*. See Fion-abhainn and Inverinan.

VI. There is quite a number of Personal names. No

man in the history of time has had a more magnificent monument to his memory than the man immortalised in the name of **Sgùrr(a) Dhòmhnaill**, and yet this man is as utterly unknown as death can make him. A Donald, surely of some sort of importance in his day—perhaps a Lochiel, perhaps a zany—but now indistinguishably lost. There is **Eilean mhic Dhomh'aill duibh**, on Loch Shiel, down below, and **Lochan Mhic'ille dhuibh** half way between.

**Ruighe-Raonail** gives a Norse name from *rögn-valdr*, *a ruler from the gods*, with the Gaelic *ruighe*.

**Allt-Eachain** might suggest the name **Eachann**, now rendered Hector, but I am confident that the name is **Each** + *-ain*, *horse-Water*, with which compare **Each-aig** and others. The distinguishing point here is most difficult to convey. The Gaelic ear will recognise at once the small but essential tinge of difference between **Allt-Eachain** and **Allt-Eachuinn**. The two names are the same in the first part, **Each** = *horse*. It is in the second they differ, the one being *a stream*, the other *a warrior*.

**Ciarain** (**Lochan mhic**) should perhaps be referred to the Church-names. See **Ciaran**, p. 170. The name is from **ciar**, *dusky*—therefore, *the dusky one*—a personal characteristic.



ARDNAMURCHAN—**ARDNAMURUCHAN**

This name is Gaelic in all its parts, and still it is not understood by even the Gaelic people. The first part **Ard**, *a height*, has been explained (p. 10); the **nam**, of which the **m** disappears by overlapping with the other following, is the gen. pl. of the article; the end part —**muruchan**—itself of necessity a gen. pl.—is the difficult part. Some have said that the name is **Ard na mór chuan**, *the height of the great seas*, and others that it may be **Ard nam murchon**, *the height of the sea-hounds*, the Gaelic form being an old name for *whales*. The name is, however, locally and correctly pronounced as a word of five syllables, corresponding as nearly as possible to the Gaelic form given above. I have therefore thought that there is not any word in Gaelic, neither now nor in the older language, which more fitly fills the place and fits the circumstances, than the word **murdhuchan**, which has been rendered as *mermaids*, *sea-nymphs*, or *sirens*, or, as might be said, the sighing *sad-ones* (**dubhach-an**) *of the sea*, for that was the Gaelic concept of the *mermaid-kind*. In a land full of poetic imagination and expression, this rendering is not only possibly true but is very likely to be so. There certainly cannot be any fault to find with it from the side of language. **Ard na mur(dh)uchan**, *the height of the sea-nymphs*, is therefore offered as the best interpretation of the name that I can give. In an old Gaelic text, *Cath Fintragha*, the word is finely used: **Is ann sin imoro ro eirgeadar na gaetha ocus roardaigheadar na tonna conach cualadar-san enni acht imall mear maithreac na murdhucann**, *and then indeed arose the winds, and the waves grew high*,

*so that they heard nothing but the furious mad sporting of the mermaids.*

A new meaning of the name has been suggested lately by the distinguished scholar who is Bodley's librarian at Oxford. Adamnan, in his *Life of St. Columba*, has occasion to mention Ardnamurchan a few times. In one place he writes the name Ardtamuirchol, and in another place he gives the dative form Ardtaibmuirchol. The interest is in the last syllable of this form of the name. Dr. Reeves, in his magnificent rendering of Adamnan's work, explained -col as *hazel*, the present **call-tunn**. This would be quite acceptable if we were compelled to believe that Adamnan's form was correct. Mr. Nicholson, however, gives another meaning. He says that this is *the height of the sea* (or Passage) of *Coll*, the island, which lies some ten miles west and south of the Point. This, however, is exposed to the further and fatal objection that if, as is almost certain, the Norseman gave its name to Coll, then it was not so named in Adamnan's time. It is perfectly safe to trust the native spoken transmission of the name, for any length of time, especially in a place so far removed from outside influences as this is, and there never has been any suggestion of Adamnan's form in the native speech. Old written forms of the name are Ardenmurich (1293), Ardnamurchin (1307), Ardnamurchan (1336), Ardnamurcho (1478), Ardmurquhane (1494), Ardnamurchane (1515), Ardnamurquhan (1519), Ardnamorquhy (1550). "The Clan Ean Murguenich were the old inhabitants," we are told by one of the best writers upon Scottish history—Cosmo Innes. He did not know Gaelic, nor the Gaelic method. There never was any such clan. The Muruchanaich were, and are, the native people,

named upon the place in shortened form, the same way as Lochaber men and Kintyre men are spoken of as Abaraich and Tìrich. Ian Murchanach was one of the Ardnamurchan people, the chief among them almost certainly, and they were named his clan because he was their Chief, as we have the Clan Ronalds and others.

II. English names are few. Shielfoot is simply *the foot of Shiel* river. It is **Bun na h-abhann** locally; but there is the other genitive in **Meall bun na h-aibhne**. Newton, Braehouse, Camphouse, Horsgate, Raelands, are of no interest, unless the last is a hybrid of Gaelic with English = **reidh**, *level*, + *lands*, which is appropriate.

III. The grammar of names is here, upon the whole, good. **Lochan na caisil** and **Loch a' chaisil**, the one Fem. the other Masc., within a short distance of each other, is, however, peculiar. The difference can only be explained by full local knowledge. There is a Gaelic Fem. noun which fits the first name and conditions well, and there is a Masc. noun of the same form, **caiseal**, but meaning *a castle*, which fits the second name, if the local history fits. It is very difficult to believe that two different forms or grammatical genders of the same word can have grown within five miles of each other. **Port na croisg** is almost certainly the same name as Crask on Loch Shiel, but this is Fem., the other Masc. **Rudha a' choit** is here Masc., but in the north the word is usually Fem.—“**an àite na coit drochaid-Bhàna.**” **Lochan a' churra** again is out of the common usage, the noun being usually Feminine.

There are not many difficult Gaelic names. **Ariveagaig** is on a nameless stream, which must have been called **Beagaig**, *the small* river, for this **-aig** is quite a common river-ending, cf. **Aircaig**, **Eachaig**, &c.

**Borrodale** (Glen) is Norse=*borg* + *dal-r*, *fort-dale*. The Survey, or some wise person, thought that Borrodale was some great man, after whom the place was named, and they here mark his grave! Borrodale was not, however, a man, but the fine *Borg-ar-dale*, *the castle-dale*, the "*làrach*" of which may be seen there to the present day as the *caisteal breac*, or *grey castle*. **Tom a' chadail**, *the sleeping hillock*, in the near neighbourhood, is almost certainly **Tom a' chaisteil**, *castle-hill*.

**Bourblaig** has a very foreign feeling, and most likely has its explanation in **Camus nan Geall**, which see.

**Briaghlann** = *brèagh*, *fine*, + *lann*, *enclosure*.

**Camusinas** is *camus* + **Aonghas**, a certain Angus.

**Camus-nan-geall** should clearly be **Camus nan Gall**, *the bay of the strangers*—the Norsemen, without doubt. It is easily possible that this was the Bourblaig = *borg* + *bol* + *vík*, of the strangers themselves—*the fort-steading Bay*—and that the natives, after the departure of the strangers, made this appropriate if not literal translation of the name, which now remains as that of the farm close by.

**Eididh** (Sgeir an). **Éideadh** is Gaelic for *clothes*, but it is almost certain that this should be **Sgeir an t-séididh**, from *séid*, *blow* (of the wind), therefore **Sgeir an t-séididh**, *the windy skerry*, with an "eclipsis" which is not common so far south (*note*).

**Ghallain** (Dùn). The Norseman is strongly evident in this part, so that **Dun a' Ghall-ain** is probably the best rendering. **Gallan** means *a branch*, and poetically *a youth*, but with **Port nan Gall**, *the Port of the strangers* immediately next the **Dùn**, I think this rendering is safe.

**Ard-druimnich** (Rudha—twice) is *àrd* + *druim* + *an -aich*.—See **Druim**.

**Ghanntair** (Tom a')—**gainntir**, *a prison* (Voc.).

**Branault** = **bràigh nan allt**, *the brae of the streams*.

**Faodhail** (**bhàn** and **dhubh**) are very good examples and illustrations of this name and its signification (see p. 15).

**Fiann** (Lochan nam) and **Greideal Fhinn**, *Fionn's griddle*, or *grille*, speak of Fingalian times and traditions. Those who are disposed to discredit Macpherson, and to look upon his *Poems of Ossian* as a baseless and fraudulent imposture, have much to learn from the place-names of the Highlands — which were before Macpherson. We can no more believe that Macpherson knew of these names than that he made them.

**Glendrian** = **gleann nan droigheann**, *thorn-woods' glen*.

**Gruagaich** (Loch na). The name is here feminine, although in the elf-tradition of the Highlands it is usually masculine. **Gruag** means *the hair of the head*, and **Gruagach** means one with an abundance of hair. It is now finely applied to a *young woman* on this account, and not with any reference to the **gruagach** of Elf-dom and Fingalian tradition. For a full and most interesting description of the life and functions of the **Gruagach**, consult Mr. Carmichael's *Carmina Gadelica*, vol. ii. p. 289. Compare **màldag** (p. 121).

**Imeilte** (Beinn na h-), is Gaelic, but it is uncommon. It seems to be akin to **iomall**, *a border*, or *boundary*, like early Irish **imbel** and Welsh **ymyl** of the same meaning.

**Kintra** is for **Cinn-tràgha**, a good example of the locative form (see p. 92), with an interesting old genitive form in **tràgha**, *the head of the land*, so far as the tide reached, and which was left dry at *ebb*.

**Luingeanach** (Rudha), is from **long**, *a ship*—therefore, *the place so often frequented by ships*.

**Mhadaidh riabhaich** (Lochan a'). **Madadh** is the generic term for the dog-kind. The **madadh-ruadh** is *the red dog*—the fox. The **madadh-allaidh** is *the wild dog*—the wolf. The otter has been called, among other things, the **madadh donn**, *the dun-dog*—without regard to zoology. The **madadh riabhach**, *the brindled dog* may be, simply a local dog.

**Sligneach** (Mhor and Bheag), are two small islands, named from **slige**, *a shell*, in which they presumably abounded. It is very interesting to observe that Ardslynish, on the mainland, has taken and kept the Norse **nes** for the Point. The Norsemen must have kept the Gaelic name and added their **nes**, or the natives must have become so familiar with the Norse tongue as to have affixed the **nes** themselves.

**Shianta** (Beinn), is the *charmed* or *blessed* mountain. The word is akin to Lat. *signum*, "the sign of the Cross," and it is impossible to say how the name may be related to the church of **Cill-Chòmhghain**, which it almost certainly is.

**Spainteach** (Port nan), *the Spaniards' Port*, is a memory, without doubt, of the Spanish Armada, of which so very interesting relics have been lately discovered in the bay of Tobermory.

**na Stallacha dubha**, *the black ledges* (p. 20), is a very good instance of the way in which the native Gaelic has assimilated the pertinent Norse names. The name is from N. **stall-r** *a block* (of rock), or *a shelf*, and in this case it is perfectly descriptive.

**Tairbeart** here, near Salen, is peculiar, for there is no isthmus, unless the name is a little displaced, and properly refers to the narrow part from Salen to Loch Shiel, which it almost certainly does.

IV. Norse names are numerous. Some are pure, like *Ellagadal, Fascadal, Groudle, Girigadal, Laga, Ockle, Ormsaig, Risga, Suairdail*; some are mixed like *Ardt-oe, Bogha-caol àrd, Camus-tòrsa, Gleann-borrodail, Suaine-port*; and some like *Acairseid, Cnap, and Stallacha dubha*, are so much at home in the native language that they need not be looked upon as outsiders.

V. There are only a few Church-names:—Kilchoain = *Cill-Chòmhghain* (p. 178), Kilmory and *Cill Mhairi* (the same), St. Columba's Well and *Cladh Chaluim* (the same), and *Cladh Chattain* (p. 175).

VI. The Personal names are:—

*Cathair Mhic Dhiarmaid, the son of Diarmad's chair.* The *chair* is figurative, like *Greideal Fhinn, am Bòrd Latharnach, &c.* The name Diarmad gives its fundamental strain to the family of the Dukes of Argyll. The Diarmad of history was son of Fergus *Cerr-beoil*, whose stronghold, as monarch of Erin, was Kells, in the early time of St. Columba. It is surely interesting to remark that not only has the *Diarmad* element remained for so long in the Argyll tradition, but the *Cerr-beoil* also, although it is now *Cam-beul*—the same thing—the *wry mouth*. It was in the time of Fergus Cerr-beoil that "Tara's Halls" were cursed and ruined. Diarmad is said to have died A.D. 550.

*Farquhar's Point—Rudha Fhearchair* in Gaelic—is named after a certain Farquhar. Who he was I cannot say. The name is an old Keltic name = *Ver-car-os* (Mb.), "*super-dear one*." The elements remain in the language still—the Prep. *air*, old *for* + *car*, as in *car-aid, a friend*.

*Maclean's Nose* is a very fine nose—a perfect instance of the imaginative transport of the body-part to the

land. It is natively called **Sròn mhór**, *the big nose*, and rightly so, for it rises upon the lines of a good nose from the sea to the height of over a thousand feet.

**Dùn-Mhurchaidh** is *the stronghold of Murdoch*, the first of whose name was **Muri-cat-os**, "sea-warrior"—the **muri** part being the familiar **muir**, *the sea*, and the second part is **cat**, which remains in **cath**, *battle*, or *fight*. See Donnchadh, p. 37.

**Nèill** (Sgeir), *Neill's rock*, is on the south coast near Glenborrodale, and **Eilean mhic Nèill** is on the north coast. This name too is old. It carries the essential idea of "*warrior*," or "*brave*," still remaining in the Adj. **ni-ata**, *courageous*.

## RUM

I. The name is not clear. It does not seem to be Gaelic. The N. **rym-r**, *a roaring*, seems possible and not quite improbable, because of its many roaring waterfalls. I have not met the name with terminal **-á**, but as **-e**.

II. There are no English names. Schooner Point, and Wreck Bay, on the east coast, are the memory of a comparatively recent event. Waterfall occurs often, but it is a translation of **eas**.

III. Rum is remarkable in that the later Gaelic restoration of names has almost altogether cleared the Norse names away and replaced them, all but on the highest hills—**Allival**, **Ashval**, **Trallival**, &c.

**Airidh na maith innse**, *the àiridh* (p. 20) *of the fruitful "haugh."*

**Àtha** (Camus na h-), *the bay of the ford*.

**Bàrr-saibh**, *the grassy Barr*. **Feur-saibh** is *scythe-grass*, or grass that is or may be cut with a scythe, but there



would not seem to be any connection between the words **saibh** and *scythe*, although they are close to each other in sound.

**Dòrnabac** = **dòrna**, gen. of **dòrn**, *the fist*, + **bac**, *a bank*—a figurative name, following the Norse order of having the attributive part of the name first.

**Fiadh-innis**, *deer-haugh*; **innis** as above, and again in the Norse order, or as well say that of earlier Gaelic.

**Fionn-chrò**, *the white-pen*, or *fold*.

**Gilleán** (Sgùrr nan), pl. of **gille**, *a lad*. Compare Gylen.

**Harris** (Gleann). This has nothing to do with the Island of Harris. It is simply the *across* glen, **thairis**, which goes nearly across the island. Harris, at the mouth of the glen, may, of course, be a hybrid—**ha-r**, *high*, + Gael. **innis**, *a haugh*, or *inch*.

**Laimhrig** and **Fearann Laimhrige**, *a landing place, harbour* (p. 117).

**Mharagach** (a'). N. **mörk**, *a march, forest*, + **ach**.

**Mhiltich** (Monadh a'), strong *mountain-grass*.

**Roinne** (Rudha na). **Ruinn** is *a sharp Point*. In A. it has gen. sing. **ranna**, and it has the English plural in Islay, *the Rhinns*. This form in Rum suggests that the word is of the same origin as **roinn**, *division*, which is most likely correct.

**Samhnan innsir** is very interesting. The first part is the same as in Samhnach V., Sonachan L., and **innsir** is almost certainly a gen. of **innis**, already referred to.

**Shleitir** (Lag) is *lag leitir* (p. 21).

**Snidhe** (Sgòrr an t-), *a dropping—water falling in drops*.

**Stac** (Beinn nan), *precipice* (pl.) N. **stakk-r**.

IV. **Allival**, **Ashval**, **Askival**, **Barkeval**, **Dibidil**,

*Giurdil, Minishall, Orval, Papadil, Pliasgaig, Raonapol, Rhangail, Ruinsival, Scresort, (Loch) Sgaolrishall, Trallival*, are all Norse.

V. Kilmory = **Cill mhoire**, in the north, is the only Church-name. There is at the south point **Inbher cille** and the Norse **Papadil**, which are very interesting as showing (1) that this nameless Kil- survived the severe Norse occupation, and (2) that the Norseman turned an old **Achadh an t-sagairt**, perhaps, or *priest's field*, into his own form of **Papa + dal-r**.

VI. There are no Personal names.

### EIGG—Eige

I. The name of the island is Norse **egg** (fem.), *an edge*, + **ey**, *island*. The last syllable remains in the Gaelic name, though it does not show in the English form. The name is extremely appropriate to the north-east coast, which would be the part to give the Norseman his first impression.

II. There are no English names.

III. **Beinn-tighe**, *the mountain with the house upon it*.

**Clith** (Bealach), *the left-hand pass*. It is always so to a person going north from Kildonan. There are two such on the way, and Cleadale is almost certainly from the same source.

**Chuagach** (a'), *the place of the cuckoo*, or it may be from **cuag**, a "*kink*." The heel of a shoe is said to be **cuagach** when it is down at one side, so this name may bear a resemblance to a *lop-sided* place.

**Curach** (Bogha na), *a coracle*, or *boat* of the old time. See **Port na curach** (Iona). See **Tancaird**, p. 99.

**Dorchadais** (Glac an), *the dell of darkness*, from **dorcha**.

**Dubhachais** (Poll an), the poll of *blackness*, or *sorrow*, from **dubh**, *black*.

**Fhàraidh** (Sgùrr an). **Fàradh** is a *ladder*—referring to the *ladder-y* steepness of the hill.

**Grulin** (iochdarach, *lower*, and uachdarach, *upper*).

**Sandavoure** = **Sanda-mhór**, a mixed name, **sand-r** + **á** + **mhór**.

**Sgàileach** (Sgùrr), the *shady sgùrr* (Hills)—**sgàile**, a *shade*.

**Tancaird** (Rudha an) is very suspicious. It is very like English *tankard*, but **Bogha Thangairidh**, on the same west coast, a few miles farther north, seems to redeem it. The **bogha** here, as in other places, should be **bodha** for N. **boði**, a *sunken rock*, + **tangl** + **gard-r**.

IV. **Charadail** (Gleann), **Eskernish** (Sgeir), **Flod-sgeir**, **Galmisdale**, **Lalg**, **Thalasgair** (Dun), and **Talm**, with **Eilean Thailm**, are Norse.

V. The Church, **Cill Donnain**, is the greatest factor by far in the history of Eigg (see p. 177). There is **Tobar Chaluum-Chille** in the north of the island, and Crois Moraig = **Moire** + **aig** in the south. **Rudha na crannaige** at Kildonan is surely reminiscent of an old preaching station, for it cannot well be for an archæological lake—"Crannag," in this position.

VI. **Alasdair** (Clach), *Alexander's rock*. This name comes to us from Greek *Ἀλέξανδρος*, "*defending-man*," through the Latin form Alexander.

(**Bodha**) **Mhic Ghilliosa**, Gillies's *sunken rock*. The name means "*Servant of Jesus*," as Gilchrist is *servant of Christ*, and Gillespie, *servant of the Bishop*—**Gille-Chriosd**, and **Gill' Easbuig**.

## MUCK (Island) = Eilean nam Muc

I. The island name is Gaelic. It means *the isle of pigs*; an old reputation which it is understood to deserve even now, for superior pigs are reared there.

II. The names are all Gaelic. There is nothing of Norse, and no Church-names.

**Creadha** (Port na), *clay-port*.

**Earrair** (Beinn) is the *eastern* or *east-ward mount*, from *ear*, *east*.

**Eag na maoile**, *the notch* on the Mull—the northern point of the island.

**Gallanach** (an), p. 41.

**Ghodag a'** (island-rock), about a mile north from the island. The word means *a flirt, coquette*, therefore a fancy.

**Teis** (Sròn an) is the gen. of *teas*, *heat*—perhaps where the cattle took to in hot weather.

## CANNA—Canaidh

I. This is a Norse name. The terminal *-ey* shows in both English and Gaelic, and the stem seems to be from the verb *kunna*, *to know*, "*ken*." On the north coast **Càrn a' Ghoill** suggests a *watching* hill. Compare **Eilean sjon-á** *the sight(ing)*, or *watch, island*, and the frequent **Cnoc-faire** of Gaelic.

II. There is one English name, Compass Hill, of which I cannot give the history; and there is one nameless Kil-, with a stone cross and other indications of its old existence.

III. **Brè-sgòrr** and **Iola-sgòrr** = **bràigh**, *upper part*, and **Iola** (p. 69) + **sgòrr** (Hills).

**Carr-innis**, *the rough island*. The **càrr** here is the root in **carraig**, *a rock*, and perhaps in **Carron** (river).

**Conagearaidh** = **con**, *dogs*, + **aig** + **àiridh** (*note*).

**Ghoill** (**Càrn a**), *the stranger's cairn*.

**Haslam** is N. **hasl**, *hazel*, + **holm-r**, *islet*.

**Oban** (an t-), the Oban, or *small bay*. N. **hóp**.

**Ruail** (**Sròn**), from **ruadh**, *red*, + **ail**. See **Glendaruel**, p. 49, and *note*.

**Stéidh** (an), *a foundation*, figurative of the island-rock on the south coast of the island.

**Stòl** (an), the "*stool*" or *seat*, and **Bod an stòil**, a figurative body-name.

**Tarbert**, as in other places, but there is a peculiar form in **Camus Thairbarnish**, *Tarbert-ness Bay*, on the north side of the Tarbert.

**Tighe** (Beinn), the same as in Eigg.

IV. **Carrisdale**, **Langanish**, **Sanday**, are Norse. **Ealaish** is doubtful.

V. The Kil- and Cross mentioned, and **Sgor nam ban naomha**, *the rock of the holy women*, are all that pertain to the Church.

VI. There are no Personal names.

MORVEN— a' **MHORAIRNE**  
 or MORVERN—or a' **MHARAIRNE**

The name is not settled. It has been thought to mean a' **Mhór-bheinn**, *the great mount*, a rendering which has found ready acceptance outside, but never within the district itself, nor with its near neighbours. The local feeling has always been towards a' **Mhór-earran**, *the great division* (of land), and the etymological bias has been so strong in this direction as to cause a wrong lengthening of the vowel in the first syllable, which is without doubt naturally short. The **mor**, or **mar**, is certainly short, and is almost certainly the same as **muir**, *the sea*. The strong "infection" by the initial **a** of the second part easily explains the native sound of the first part, which is represented as nearly as possible by the second Gaelic form given above. A very competent scholar, and a Highlander—which in such work as this is must always count for much—has thought that the name stands for a' **Mhuir-bheàrna**, *the sea cleft*. The rendering is good in several ways. It is good Gaelic, which the name certainly is, whatever may be the interpretation. It can bear the recognised changes of language, or rather of form, which would carry it into the present a' **Mharairne**. It goes a good way to meet old forms of the name; and it is consistent with its explanation in the actual form of the land. There is a **beàrna**, or *cleft*, running right through the district, dividing it nearly into two distinct parts. The *cleft* is made up of **Loch Teacuis**, **Loch Doire na mart**, **Loch-airidh Aonghais**, the river of **Gleann dubh** with **Loch-uisge**, and **abhainn na Còinniche** into **Loch a' Choire**—and

there is only half a mile, or less, of break in *the cleft* from sea to sea, a distance of nearly thirty miles. I am therefore disposed to commend this interpretation of the name (given by the Rev. Dr. George Henderson) as the best, in my judgment, that has been proposed up till now. It is of interest to notice that the better English form, *Morvern*, gives a distinct support to this rendering; and the old records point the same way—Morwarne (1510, 1545), Morwerne (1517), Morverne (1671).

II. There are no English names worth mentioning.

III. **Achafors** is a hybrid = Gaelic **achadh** + N. **fors**, *a rushing current*.

**Achadh-lianain** = **achadh** + **lian-ain**, *a small meadow*.

**Airbhe** (Camus na h-) is an old word meaning *a fence, wall, or enclosure*. It is pronounced éirbhe, with the *e* short. There is another word meaning *movement*, or *disturbance*, which is quite consistent with the position of this **Camus**, into which the flood-tide comes with great force causing something like a whirlpool. The Norse **eyrr**, gen. **eyr-ar**, *a gravelly bank*, is also a characteristic of the bay. I, however, prefer the first of these renderings.

**Aire** (Tòrr na h-) = **tòrr na(fh)aire**, *the watch hill*, at the mouth of Loch Aline.

**Àrcain** (Bol) seems to be Norse, as I have supposed, for *Haco-stead*, but a native suggests that it is **Bodha-Lorcainn**. The N. **bodl** part is certainly preferable, but in that case I can offer no explanation of the second part. The name is natively pronounced as I give it, and it is so on the Survey map.

**Ardtornish** is a mixed name = **àrd**, *a height*, + N. **Thór's nes**.

**Arienas** = **àiridh Aonghais**, *Angus's àiridh*.

**Auliston** (Point, and farm) is locally **rudha nan amhlaistean**. The sea-name has been carried to the farm on the mainland. The word is quite familiar to me as meaning *tricks*, or *circum-ventions*, and it certainly contains the old preposition **ambi**, *around*. It may, therefore, express some acts or difficulties of sailing *round* this very difficult Point.

**Beitheach** (Coire). This is the Adj. *birchy*, and not the Noun **beitheach**, *a birch-wood*.

**Beathrach** (Beinn na). See p. 39.

**Chàirn** (Achadh a') is a peculiar genitive. It disobeys the ordinary rule, as does also **Tigh a' Chnoic**—but they are none the worse for that. **Achadh a' chùirn** and **Tigh a' cnuich** are the regular forms of later Gaelic.

**Chàise** (Meall a') is *cheese-mountain*.

**Chaisil** (Beinn a') is evidently named from **Lochan a' Chaisil**, and the word here means *a ford*. See p. 13.

**Cheallaich** (Allt a'), the Burn of the *Cell-man*, or *Monk*, of Kilmalieu—without doubt. It is a name of very long ago, bearing for all time the anonymous immortality of some worthy man.

**Kingairloch** = **Cinn a' gheàrr-loch**, *the head of the short loch*—perfectly descriptive. The only point remarkable about the name (apart from the locative form of **Cinn**) is that **loch** is not in the genitive.

**Claigionn** (An) is *a skull*, and is figurative. It is said that the name is used for a good field, or for the best field—in Islay—but that does not seem to apply here.

**Claon leathad** = **claon** + **leathad**. It is written Clounlad in the Survey map. **Claon** means *awry*, or *sloping*.



**Croise** (Camus na) is the Bay of the Cross, doubtless an old Cross of the Church of Kilmalieu = **Cill mo Libha** (p. 184).

**Doirenamast** is **doire na mart**, *cow-grove*—a Mull-man's rendering of the name.

**Rudha na droma buidhe** shows exceptional grammar, for **druim** is usually masculine ; it is here feminine.

**Druimeannan** (na) is a peculiar plural, from **druim**, *a back*.

**Earnaich** (Rudha àird) is locally **aird Éirionnaich**, which I believe is right, but N. **eyrr-ar**, + Gael. **-naich**, is quite appropriate.

**Eiligair**, from **eilig**, *the willow-herb* (*Epilobium*, *Onagr.*), or possibly N. **elgr**, *the elk*, though this is unlikely.

**Éug** (an t-allt) ; **éug** means *death*.

**Fionary** = **fionn**, *white*, or *fair*, + **àiridh**.

**Gearr-chreag** is *short rock* = **geàrr** + **creag**.

**Gùda** (Gleann na), named upon the river, itself being named from **gùda**, *gudgeon-fish*.

**Iadain** (Beinn) and **Itharlain** (Beinn). The two are like Personal names. I cannot explain them otherwise.

**Inntreadh** (an t-), *the entrance*—which is very descriptive.

**Lurga**, or **Lurgann** (an), *the shank, shin bone*.

**Luachran** (Poll) = **luachair**, *rushes*, + **ar-an**.

**Lundie** = **lundaiddh**, akin to **lòn**, *a marsh*, and this is nearly the meaning always.

**Meinn** (Allt na) is English *a mine*, therefore *Mineburn*.

**Mhonmhuir** (Bealach a'), an imitative word, the same as English *murmur*, referring, almost certainly, to the murmuring sound of a stream.

**Mucrach** (and Coire nam) = **muc**, *pigs*, + **ar-ach**.

**Poll-airinis** has a Norse feeling, and **Ard-ness**, close

by, suggests its meaning—the pool of **Ard-nes**, a mixed name in genitive form—**Poll-àirde-nis**.

**Rapaiche** (Sithean na) is the *noisy, rabbley* place—fem. gen. from **rapach**, *noisy*.

**Saighde** (Leac na), from **saighead**, *an arrow*.

**Samhairidh** (Savary) = **samh**, *sorrel*, + **àiridh**. **Samh** is also the Gaelic for *juniper*; and there is **samhnan**, or **samhnachan**, *a large trout*, and this would do well for **Allt na Samhnach**, if it did not seem to be more correctly referable to the **Samhnach** near it, as the next stream, **Allt na Socaich** is, without doubt, to its **Socach**.

**Seasglaich** (Coire an t-) = **seasg**, *dry*, used of a cow not giving milk, + **lach**. See p. 27.

**Sleaghach** (and Dunan na) is clearly from **sleagh**, *a spear*—a figurative name applied to the hill.

**Sleibhtecoire** = **coire** + the gen. of **sliabh**, *a hill*. It is a word thoroughly familiar in the language, though not nearly so much used in Scottish names as it is in Ireland.

**Slabhaig** (Coire). **Slabhag** is *the pith of a horn*. When the horn of an animal—of a cow, for instance—is struck off, the core part which remains is the **slabhag**.

**Sòrn** is *a furnace, flue, or vent*, so this is possibly all Gaelic as, -ag -an, certainly is. See p. 139.

**Sruthan na creige bàin àirde** is a good bit of grammar, showing a correct agreement of two Adjectives in the genitive case.

**Streang** (an) is imitative, and is the same as English *string*. It is on the same lines as **Loch-Iall**.

**Stuadh** (an), *a gable, pinnacle*—figurative.

**Teacuis** (Loch) is more correctly, according to local rendering, **Loch-tiacais** (*note*).

**Tearnail** (Loch) is the sheltered or protected loch—a most appropriate description.

**Tiobairt** (Ard an). See p. 36.

**Uileann** (an), *the elbow*, is another of the body-names, which are exceptionally numerous in Morven.

IV. **Eignaig, Laudal, Liddesdal, Mungasdal, Suar-dail**, with the islands of **Carna, Oronsa, Rlsga**, are pure Norse; **Airidh-anndail, Coire-bhorodail, Allt-easgadail, Acha-fors, Gleann-galmadail, Abhainn-ghardail, Gleann-sanda, Ard-tòrnish**, are mixed; **Bol-àrcain, Poll-airinnis, Miadar, Loch Teacuis, Sornagan**, and **Uamhdail** are not quite certain. All the mixed names take the Gaelic gen. even into the Norse part—governed, of course, by the later prefixed Gaelic part.

V. The Church-names are few. There is **Cill-Mhairi** on Loch Sunart, Kilmalieu = **Cill mo Libha**, and Kilmundine = **Cill - Fhionntain**, shown as **Cill - Fhionntaig** also.

VI. The Personal names are not many.

**Artair** (Féith mhic-) shows two very interesting parts. **Féith** is the same word as the Gaelic for *a vein* (blood-vessel), but in place-names it means the stream which flows through a local bog. It might well come in with the body-names. The **Artair** part is very old. It has been referred to an old Gaelic root, **art**, *a bear* (Mb), and to **arto**, from **ar**, *to plough*, and therefore *a cultivator*—by Principal Rhys.

**Aonghais Ruaidh** (Tom), the hillock favoured by a certain *red-haired Angus*. The name Angus is made up of two parts—**aon** + **gus** = *one* (or *unique*) *choice*. This is the name in Airienas, which see. It is the same end-part as in Fer-gus.

**Cùgain** (Cnoc mhic) = **mhic dhubh(a)gain**, on the

same lines as Mackinnon = **find** + **gen**, therefore the *dark-born*.

**Dhonnchaidh** (Lochan). See p. 37.

**Chormaig** (Lochan) = **corb-mac**, from **corb**, a *chariot*—therefore, *the charioteer*.

**Sioruith** (Tigh mhic), perhaps **Siorruidh**, some famous, or *eternal*, son of Kilmalieu, but F. says that in Mull a branch of Mackinnons went by the name Mac-Siridh, which suggest a Norse ancestry from Sigrid.

## MULL—MUILE

I. The name of Mull is in Gaelic **Muile**, as given. The readiest derivation would be from N. *Mull*, a *Mull*, *jutting crag*, or "*snout*," + **-ey**, and perhaps it would be correct. The Norsemen called it *Myl*, but I have not found the terminal **-a** or **-ey** with this form. There is, however, a difficulty in that Ptolemy, about A.D. 125, called the island Mal-eus, long before the Norse invasion of the west—if we must believe that the association of the name is right. The old names in the records do not help—Mowyl, Mulle, Mowyl, Mwill, &c.

II. The English names are few, and of little interest. Such names as the Wilderness and Portfield are translations. Livingstone's Rocks, Rankin's Rocks, Frank Lockwood's Island, Lord Lovat's Cave, have some sort of history in them which I cannot give.

III. The Gaelic names are good—extremely good. There is no district or part of the county in which the native language has so full and so fine a vocabulary as in Mull. It is in fact a splendid "text" of the Gaelic tongue; and while Mull and its names exist it is only a foolish person who will venture to say that the Gaelic language is either dead or dying—the one hope, or fear, is as baseless as the other; the event is impossible.

**Achaloist** = *achadh-loisgte*, *burnt-field*.

**Airich** (Allt an) is *the cowherd's burn*, from *àireach*.

**Artunna** = *àird + tunna*, a *tun*, *vat*.

**Athairidh** = *ath + àiridh*. **Ath** is now a prefixed preposition meaning *again*, or *re-*, so it is very nearly of the same value as **frith**, p. 80. The meaning then is the *àiridh* *against* the other *àiridh*. **Obair** is *ath-obair* is work,

and the same work over *again*. An excellent instance of the usage is on Loch-uisge, where there is *dubh-leitir* on one side of the loch and *ath-leitir*, or the *again-st leitir* on the other, opposite.

**Arragain** (Tìr). Compare **Tìr-étagain**, K.

**Ardchiavaig** = **Àrd** + *kyrr*, *quiet*, + *vik*, or *ky-r*, *cow*.

**Braclaich** (Cnoc na), grey, or *badger-coloured* place, a *brake*.

**Bhùgan** (Beinn)—several meanings (*note*).

**Caigeann** (an), p. 12. Perhaps the **Caigean** here are the fine hills, **Beinn Bhuidhe** (2354) and **Creach-bheinn** (2289).

**Chaise** (Tòrr a') is the *tòrr* of *the steep*—a noun made from Adj. *cas*, *steep*, which though here masc. is fem. in form.

**Chaoidh** (Tòrr a'), the *tòrr* of *weeping* or *lamentation*.

**Carraigan** (an), *carraig*, a *rock*, + dim. *an*.

**Carlvalg** = **Càrn** (?) + *bhalg*, *bags*.

**Cameron** is *cam-shròn*, the same as the personal surname, *the curved "knowe,"* or *nose*.

**Cloidheig** (Lochan and Port na), a *prawn*, *shrimp*.

**Còmhla** (Creag na), a *deal door*, or *half-door*, *door-leaf*.

**Choimhich** (Lag a'), a *foreigner*.

**Conarst** = *còmhnard*, *level*, *equally high*, the most perfect definition of *level* that can be given. Compare *cothrom*, p. 59.

**Cràbhaiche** (Eilean a'), a *devout*, *religious person*, almost certainly the retreat of one of the men of St. Kilda, on Loch-buy.

**Crògan** (an) is from *cròg*, a *claw*, and is a name given as fancifully indicative of the shape of the place.

**Chrònain** (Cnoc a'), a "*crooning*," or *purring*, perhaps from the sound of the stream.

**Crossan** (an), the same as Eng. *across* + *an*—the *small across-land*.

**Crullach** (Port nan), almost certainly an error for **curach**, *coracle, boat (note)*.

**Droma** (Ceann an), the end of the druim or "*back,*" *ridge*.

**Dromain** (Barrach an), the barrach (*bàrr*) of *the elder-tree*, or the dim. of the previous word.

**Eaglais** (Aird), *ecclesia, a church—the Aird by the church*.

**Falbhan** (Clachan), an aimless *travelling*, or *a wanderer*.

**Feoirlin**, see p. 18. It is here, with Pennycross, *peighinn na croise*.

**Fealasgaig** (Uisge) is N. *fjall, hill*, + *skiki, a strip* of land.

**Fellon-mór** has its explanation in **Cnoc na faoilinn** next it. **Faoileann**, primarily *a gull*, is applied to *a pebbly-white* sea-shore, and is even carried inland, as near Bunessan.

**Ghamhnach mhór** (a'), from *gamhainn, a stirk*, + *ach*. This is a frequent name for island-rocks.

**Garradh** (an) = *an gàradh, the enclosing wall*, secondary to *a garden*.

**Geodha ceann dà aoinidh**, *the creek at the head of the two aoineadhs* (p. 12). The first and the last words are Norse.

**Gortendoil** = *gort an doill, the blind man's field*, or enclosure.

**Lethonn** = *leth + fonn, land*, therefore *a half-land* (p. 117).

**Liathanaich** (na), from *liath* (Colours) + *an-aich* (pl.).

**Lighe** (Beinn). See p. 77.

**Lungadain** (Rudh' àird) = gen. of *long, a ship* (gen. *luing*) + *ad-ain*, on Loch-buy.

**Natain** (Druim) = *druim Neachtain*. This name has come from the Eastern or Pictish side of Scotland.

**Omhain** (Allt), *froth, or foam*. See p. 51.

**Ohirnie**, from *odhar*, *otter-coloured* = *odhar(n) + aidh*.

**Pennyghael** = *peighinn a' Ghàidhil*, *the Gael's penny-land*.

**Reinge** (*Rudha na*) is from N. *röng*, *a boat-rib*, taking the Gaelic gen. form.

**Rossal** is almost certainly Norse = *hross + hóll*, *horse-hill*.

**Samhna** (*Maol na*). This is so straight a gen. of **Samhuinn**, *Hallow-mas*, that it must come by this way—from some old rite on that day or eve.

**Samhan** (*Eilean nan*), *a juniper bush* (pl.) This is the most direct meaning (p. 106).

**Sastail** (*Cnoc*) seems to be a N. *-dal* name, from *sad̥*, *crop*, "*seed*." The name is lost in its first use now.

**Saor pheighinn**, *the free penny-land* (p. 18).

**Sealltair** (*Tom an t-*), *the watchman's hillock*, right opposite the entrance to Loch Spelvie—a most suitable position, from *seall*, *look*.

**Seilisdair** (*Camus an t-*), the "*flag*," or *yellow iris*.

**Sgàlain** (*Loch an*), *a shade, shelter, tent, hut*. N. *skáll*.

**Searsainn** (*Àiridh na*). This is pl. of Eng. *serjeant*, which really means *a servant*, although it has had many meanings.

**Sgrithinn** (*Tòrr an*) has in it the same root element as **Sgriodan**, N. *skriða*, *a land-slip*, and would be better written *sgridhinn*.

**Slaochain** (*Port an t-*), *a raft, sled*; therefore, *the raft-port*.

**Sluibhtechoire** = *sléibhte (sliabh) + coire*. See V., p. 106.

**Slugaid** (*a' Chruachan*), a noun from *slug*, *swallow*; therefore, *the swallow, gorge*, Fr. *la gorge*, applied to a



place where a stream bores its way through a rock, forming a gorge. There is a **Slugan dubh**, the masc. form, on the Sound of Iona.

**Taoislin** = **taois**, *dough*, + **lin** (*note*).

**Teanga**, *a tongue* (p. 30). There is a fine example between the two burns which flow into the north corner of the southern end of Loch Spelvie.

**Tòn-tìre** is in a sense the opposite of **Cinn-tìre**.

**Uisken** = **uisge** + **ain**, *the small watery-place*.

IV. **Assapol**, **Carsaig**, **Eorabus**, **Ormsaig**, **Shiaba**, are unmixed Norse; **Gleann-alasgaig**, **Ard-alanish**, **Ard-chrisnish**, **a' chleitt**, **Erraid**, **Gleann-libidil**, **Gleann-leidil**, and **Inagart**, are mixed with Gaelic, and with the Gaelic "infection." **Eilean Amalaig** is uncertain (*note*).

V. The Church-names are Killinaig = **Cill(Fh)inn(t)aig** (p. 113); Kilviceuen = **Cill mhic Eoghain** (p. 184); Kilpatric = **Cill Phàtric** (p. 160), St. Kilda's Church, and there is an old burial-ground with the ruins of a nameless chapel on Carsaig Bay, with a Pennycross or the *penny-land*, on which stood the Cross. There is another Pennycross right opposite on the north coast—on **Loch Sgridain**—with **Crois an ollaimh**, all doubtless referable to **Cill-in(t)aig**.

VI. **Ailean** (Rudh' Iain Mhic-), **Allan**—a name said to come the same way as Lat. *alo*, *I rear*.

**Cribhein** (Airidh Mhic), for MacNiven = **mac naomhain**, *Saint's-son* (p. 30).

**Fhearchair** (Allt), *Farquhar's Burn*. See p. 95.

**Ghillandrais** (Carraig) = **gille**, *servant of, Andrew*.

**Ghuair** (Uamh), *Godfrey's Cave*.

**Mhenuis** (Aoineadh), *Magnus'*, and p. 12. The name has come from Lat. *magnus*, *great*, through Norse, in which the name as **Magnuss** is common.

**Oighrige** (Eilean). This is the Gaelic for the Eng. female name Effie, from òigh, *maiden*, + rig-da; therefore, *royal maiden*.

**Slamhaich** (Allt Mhic-)—a familiar name for *the Devil*, or *the greedy one*. It is not a Highland personal name.

(2) FROM (1) TO THE HEAD OF LOCH NAN KEALL  
AND SALEN

**Airdvergnish**. There is old Gael. *meirge*, a *standard*, but I prefer N. *bjork*, *birch*, + *nes* here.

**Airinasliseig** = àiridh na sliseig, a *shaving*, or *slice*. It occurs in K. also. The dim. of *slios*, a *side*, or *flank*, is also possible, although the grammar is against this.

**Beàrnach** (Coire), the *notched*, or *cleft*, “corrie.” See Bernice, C.

**Bìth-bheinn**. Bìth is most commonly used of the *resin* which oozes from the bark of fir. It seems to mean generally an *oozing* of any kind; but Armstrong's Dictionary has *bìth*, *quiet*, or *peaceful*. The first meaning is almost certainly the meaning in this name—the *oozing mountain*. Or it may be **Buidhe-bheinn**; the **Goirtean buidhe** is at its foot. Other forms, like **Glas-bheinn**, would be in favour of this.

**Brìdeig** (Allt) is **Brigit's Burn**, and next it **Allt Gille-Chaluim**, that of *Columba's servant*. There is also **Meall a' chlarsair** and **Leac an t-sagairt**, the *harper's hill* and the *priest's stone*—all which points to the Church record, spreading from Kilfinichen and Killinaig.

**Brimishgan** = *bramasag*, *Burr-weed* (*Xanthium*), + *an*.

**Cannel** (Gleann)—named upon the river (*note*).

**Chapuill** (Aoineadh a'), in the Survey map **Aoineadh thapuill**. See p. 12.

**Càrnacha fionna** (na), *the white Carnochs*, shows a good example of good grammar, which is indeed peculiarly rich, in the Mull names. In the same district is **fiona mhàm**, *the white, or fair, Màm*.

**Carrachan mór**, the great **carrach** + **an**, perhaps better as **carragh**, same as **carraig**. The **carrachan creige** is the "cobbler"-fish, and there is "The Cobbler" mountain at the head of Loch-Long—fanciful.

**Chonnaidh** (Allt a') is dry wood, ready for the fire, that is, *firewood*.

**a' Chonnail** is the same as **Coingheal** (p. 59). It is the meeting of waters—in this case of **Allt a' mhùchaidh smothering**, and **abhainn Bail' a' mhuilinn**.

**Choiredail** (Cruach Màm, &c.), and **Goladair** River, are almost certainly the same, the latter form being an ignorant metathesis. **Coire-dail** is quite easily understood as **Coire** + **dal**, like **Uamh-dal** (V.), but **Goladair** conveys no sense that I can find; like **Glemanuil** (K.) and others, all errors of the Survey.

**Chròtha** (Àird a'). This is a good and nearly lost genitive of **crò**, *a pen*, or *a fold*.

**Craignure** = **creag an iubhair**, *yew-rock*.

**Dererach** (an) = **an(d)ear**, *the east*, + **-ar-ach** (pp. 32, 100).

**Derryguag** = **doire dhubh-aig**, *the grove on the black Water*—the **aig** here standing for *river*.

**Deuchainn** (Cnoc) is *trial, difficulty, trouble*.

**Diseig** is most likely Norse, named upon the Bay, *vík*, although the next stream, **Dubhaig**, is certainly Gaelic.

**Domhnaich** (Maol an). **Domhain**, *deep*, is here quite possible, the name being that of practically a sea-rock, but the fact that it is a "calf" of Inch-Kenneth makes it almost certainly **Dòmhnach** = Lat. *dominica*, *the Lord's place*, or the place of *the Lord's man*.

**Duairt** = **dubh** + **àird**, with accent thrown forward on to the first syllable, as always happens in such combinations.

**Duatharach** (Beinn na). This is the Argyll rendering of what might be better written **dubh-ar-ach**, *a shade*, or a protection from the heat of the sun. The root is **dubh**, *black*, or, in this case, *dark*.

**Eararadh** is *the parching of corn* before grinding, and it is here quite possible, with **-ach** as *the place of*.

**Eilireig** (an) = **iolaireig** (p. 56).

**Coirenahenchy** and **Coire nan eunchair** are clearly from the same source, the one being singular, the other plural—**eun**, *a bird*; **eunach**, *fowling*; the first + **aidh**, the other + **air**.

**Faoileann**, in its secondary meaning, p. III, is very common in Mull.

**Gall-mór** (Rudha nan) shows agreement with **rudha** in the singular, and not with **Gall**, which is the gen. pl.; so the name is a compound, **Rudha-nan-gall**. The grammar of the names of Mull is very good and very interesting.

**Gaodhail** (River)—**gaodh**, old Gaelic, *a leech*; therefore, *the leech-river*.

**Geàrna** (an) is from **geàrr**, *cut*, and means *the cutting*, as **beàrna** means *a cleft*, from old **bher**, *cut*.

**Ghràig** (Beinn a'), from **gràg**, *crowing, croaking*—imitative.

**Grùline**, a common name, probably from **groth**, *gravel, pebbles*, + **lin** (*note*).

**Iolaich** (Bàgh an), Bay of *joy*, or *merriment*. It is on Inch-Kenneth, and surely conveys a story of the olden time and custom.

**Java** must be an import.

**Laimhrige** (Sgeir na). **Laimhrig** is a *landing-place*, or *harbour*. It seems to be based on **laimh-rig**, a *handling*.

**Làpan** (an), *mire, mud, clay*. It is from the same origin as **làthach**; therefore, a wet, miry ground.

**Lethonn** = **leth** + **fhonn**, a *half-land*. **Fonn** is an old and poetical word, not now in use, though kindred **bonn** is. It means *found-ation*, or *foot-hold*—the earth. The name occurs on Loch Don and on Loch Sgrìdain.

**Lochdon**—almost certainly **Loch-domhainn** (*note*).

**Lurgann** (Achadh), *the skin bone*—one of the body-names.

**Mainnir nam fiadh**, *the deer fold*, or *pen*. It has been referred to early Fr. *maneir*, a *dwelling*, coming on the same lines as Eng. *Manor*.

**Màm a' choir' idhir**, *the Màm (Hill) of the "dun" corrie*, shows a very interesting "infection" of the Adj. **odhar**. There is also a good plural form, **na Saighdean odharra**, *the "dun" swords*—figurative. The origin of the word **odhar** has been suggested to have been the same as that of "*otter*," colour, but the otter is the **béist-dubh**, and never, that I know, the **béist-odhar**, in Gaelic. I have, however, heard it called the **cù-donn**, *the dun-dog*. See Colours (Intro.). For **Saighdean** compare **Sleaghach** (p. 106) and **Claidheamh**.

**Partan** (Cnoc nam), a *crab-fish* — "*Partan*"-hillock, strangely enough an inland name.

**Pennygown** = **Peighinn a' ghobhainn**, *the smith's penny-land*.

**Sléibhtecoire** = gen. of **sliabh** + **coire** (p. 106).

**Sréine** (Beinn na), gen. of **srian**, a *bridle*.

**Tàlaidh** (Beinn). The word means to *entice*, or *tame*, an animal, and in this way, for some reason, the name doubtless came.

**Thunacairidh** (Beinn) = N. **Sunna** + **gard-r** (p. 118).

**Tiompain** (Màm an), a musical instrument; Lat. *tympanum*, a *drum*, *tymbrel*, used fancifully of a round hill, in this case of a **Màm**.

**Tiobairtean** (Coire nan)—the gen. pl. of **tipra** (p. 36).

**Tomsléibhe** = **tom** + a gen. of **sliabh**.

**Tòn dubh-sgairt**. This, if not poetical, is distinctly suggestive; and if we could be in doubt as to the meaning of **sgairt**, the **tòn** part supplies any necessary proof of the meaning. It is **tòn** + **dubh**, *black*, + **sgairt**, "*squirt*," or severe diarrhoea—figurative clearly.

**Torness** = **tòrr an eas**, *the Torr by the waterfall*.

**Uruisge** (Coire an), "a being supposed to haunt lonely and sequestered places, as mountains, rivers, and waterfalls" (H. S. D.), a *goblin*, "brownie."

IV. The following names are Norse pure: **Caskadal**, **Eorsa**, **Fishnish**, **Scallasdal**, **Scarrisdal**, **Rossdal**, **Torossay**. **Drum-sorn-alg**, **Gleann-fors-a**, **Rudha Leth-Thorcail**, **Uluv-allt** are mixed. **Màm Bhreapadail** and **Màm Bhraghadail** are mixed.

V. The old Church-names are **Kilfinichen** = **Findchan** (p. 182), **Inch-Kenneth** = **Innis-Choinnich**, the **Càin-each**, or "*fair one*" (p. 171), **Kilphatrick**, near **Duairt**, and **Tìr-órain** perhaps; **Kilbeg** = a' **Chill bheag**, **Rudha na cille** (on L. Spelvie), **Drum na cille** (between **Fishnish** and **Scallastle**) show forgotten and now nameless Kils; **Aird-eaglais** and **Meall an t-sagairt** clearly refer to a church that has disappeared. **Killiemore**, on **Loch Sgridain**, has

its good gloss in **Maol na Coille móire** standing over it. It is not a *Kil*, but a *coille* (p. 40).

VI. **Bàrr Shomhairle** is *the Barr of Somerled*, a word which means "Summer-sailor" (Mb.), **Sumar-lidh**. The name is common in the Western Isles, and it is of Norse origin, without doubt—a *viking-r* of the olden time, who wisely chose the summer for his raids on the West.

**Port Donain** may refer to St. Donnan of Eigge (p. 117), but this is not likely. It is a personal name from **donn**, "*dun*."

**Rhaoil** seems to be a naked gen. of the name Ronald, where the governing word has fallen out. This name is Norse **Rögn-valdr**, *reign-ruler*, or *ruler from the gods* (Mb.). There is another explanation possible, however. The name is on **Allt Coire fraoich**, *the stream of the heather-corrie*, so the name may be **fraoch-ail** softened down. Compare **Ruadh-ail** in **Gleann da ruadh-ail**, Glendaruel, C.

**Thomais** (Carraig Mhic-), *Thomas-son's rock*.

### (3) FROM (2) TO THE NORTH COAST

**Airidh-pholl** = *àiridh* + gen. pl. of **poll**, *a pool*, or *puddle*.

**Amais** (Càrn an), the gen. of **Amas**, *aim*, and *meeting*, which is after all the same idea.

**Bà** (River and Loch) can only be from **bà**, *a cow*—another of the Animal-rivers.

**Bail' lochdair**, the farm or stead *upon the low ground*, **lochdar**, as opposed to **uachdar**, *the upper*, or higher, *ground*, which appears in such various forms as **Achter**-, **Auchter**-, **Ochter**-, though not in Argyll.

**Ballygown** = baile a' ghobhainn, *the smith's steading*.

**Bellart** (River), not a River-name (*note*).

**Biolaireach** (Lòn), Adj. *the water-cress*, from biolair, which in old Gaelic was biror, from old bir, *water*, or *well*.

**Burg** and **Dun-Askain** show the effort of Gaelic to come to its own again. This was the *borg*, without doubt, of *Askan*, a Norseman. When he and his left, the native people saw the *borg*, which they recognised as a dùn, or *stronghold*, and they kept the name of Askan for their dùn, that was previously attached to the *borg*, and the *borg* was sent adrift, without a specific name.

**Coille** and **Cill a' mhorair** shows again that there is a risk of mistaking the one for the other. The **Cill** here is clearly the *coille*, the wood, and not the Kil- of the Church-names.

**Criadhach mhór**, *the large clayey place*, from criadh.

**Crìonlarach** is *the small làrach*, the same as is perverted into a supposed nominative, **Crianlarich**, on the West Highland railway.

**Cuilce** (Lochan na), *the reedy Lochan*, see p. 46.

**Cuin** (Loch) seems to be, and appropriately is, **an Loch Cumhang**, *the narrow loch*.

**Dubh-leiter** is *the black leiter*, p. 21.

**Eas-fors** (Allt an) is very interesting, as again showing how the Gaelic people preserved, when they certainly did not understand the meaning of, the Norse names. The Burn was named *fors*, or *the waterfall*, by the Norseman, and when he left, the natives called the Burn by its appropriate and perhaps its older name, *eas*, *a waterfall* also; but being familiar with the Norse name *fors* they kept it, although they did not know that it meant the same thing as their own *eas*. This is quite



a common occurrence. The name, then, means *the Burn of the waterfall* twice over, once Norse and again Gaelic.

**Fàn-more** is *the great gentle slope*. See **Fanans**, p. 59, and **am fàn**.

**Fiann** (Tòrr nam) is another instance of Fingalian evidence in topography.

**Fùdar** (Coire an) is *powder*, almost certainly a modern name, having reference to this *Corrie* as a hunting or "shooting" *Corrie*.

**Ghigha** (Druim) is the same as the island name **Gigha**, off the coast of K., meaning the N. *gla*, *chasm*, or *rift*, + *ey*, *island*; but why the name is here given, which is not within sight of Gigha, is very difficult to suggest. **Druim ghiadha**, *the Druim of the (wild) geese*, is easily acceptable, especially because of the full forms of the plural so peculiarly preserved in the names of Mull. Compare Saighdean *odharra*, &c.

**Kellon** = **Ceall** + **fhonn**. The first part is the same as in **Loch nan Ceall**, and **fonn**, p. 117, occurs in **Leth-(fh)onn** (p. 117).

**Kingarbh** = **Cinn**, loc. of **ceann**, *a head*, + **garbh**, *rough*.

**Màldaig** (Sgeir) is a feminine form in *-aig*, from **màlda**, *gentle*, therefore a gentle maiden, *a mermaid*, perhaps.

**Ladhair** (Loch an), *a hoof*, therefore the Loch of *the hoof-mark*.

**Ledmore** = **an leathad mor**. See p. 21.

**Leth-ghleann** is *the half glen*, in the sense of p. 21.

**Lìn** (Glac an), *flax* (growing) *dell*.

**Penalbannach** = **peighinn**, *penny-land*, + **Albannach**.

**Phollachie** (Coire) = **poll**, *a puddle* (pl.), + **achadh**.

**Sean-pheighinn** is *the old penny-land*.

**Sgùlan** (Breac) is the *spotted sgùlan, wicker-basket*—figurative, no doubt.

**Tònan** (Na), plural of *tòn, podex*.

**Tràth** (Loch), the *early loch*—perhaps because of its early fishing time, which its position suggests.

IV. Norse names are frequent. *Aros, Ensay, Haum, Mishnish, Mornish, Oskamal, Quinish, Reudle, Sgalanish, Sorne, Sunipol, Treshnish, Tostary, Udmail*, are nearly all pure Norse.

V. The Church-names are Kilbrennain = **Cill Bhrannain** (p. 175), Killichronain = **Crònán** (p. 184), Kilmore = **Cill Moire**, Kilninian = **Cill-ninidh-ain** (p. 162), with **Loch nan Ceall**, and Kellon.

VI. Personal names are few. **Gleann Mhic Cairidh**, the gen. of Mac-ara (?).

**Dhòmhnaill** (Meall Mhic-), p. 37.

### COLL—Colla

I. This is a Norse name, said to come from *koll-r, a top, crown, + ey, an island*, although there are no high hills—nothing over 250 feet. This fact gives a prejudice against this rendering. There is another. The word *koll-r* is grammatically masculine, and would take a gen. in *s* (I would say the chief element in Colonsay), but here the name has clearly a fem. genitive, and therefore I offer *kolla, a hind, or humble-deer, + ey*, as the origin of the name. “It is very fertile alsweill of corns as of all kinds of catell. There is some birkin woodis within the said ile and will raise seven score men in tyme of troublis or weiris.”

II. There are one or two English names which are likely translations, such as Roundhouses, Broadhills.

III. The difficult names are exceptionally so. They are more than a third of them pure Norse, and almost all the Gaelic names seem to have the Norse infection.

**Acha** and **Dùn-achaidh** is *achadh*, *field*.

**Airileoid** = *àiridh* + perhaps the personal name in (Mac)leod with correct genitive, as Gael. **Mac-leoid**.

**Airinabost** = Gael. *àiridh an* + N. *ha-r* + *bost*.

**Airivirig** = *àiridh* + Gael. gen. of N. *borg-r*. Compare Burg and Dun-bhuirg, M.

**Anlaimh** (Loch), or better, *Anlaih's loch*. This is the N. name *Anlaf*, whence Macaulay.

**Arinagour** = *àiridh na gobhar*, *the goat's àiridh*.

**Ascaoineach** (Eilean), the *unkindly* island. It is very exposed.

**Beart an fhir**, *the man's deed*—some famous act which I cannot state.

**Breacacha** = *breac* + *achadh*, *spotted field*.

**Chairidh** (a'), *the weir* (p. 55).

**Chogaidh** (Leac), the *leac* (p. 16) *of the fight*.

**Cinneachan** (Loch nan), almost certainly for *Cain-eichean* (p. 35).

**Clabhach** = *clamh*, *a kite, buzzard*, + *ach*.

**Cliad**, (and Loch, and Bay) = *cli*, *left* (ward), + *ad*, as in *leth-ad* (?); *cliadan* is *bur-bush*.

**Cuiseag** (Sgeir nan), *reedy grass*.

**Eatha** (Port na h-), and **Loch Eatharna**, from *Eatha*, *a boat*.

**Fasachd** comes easier from *fàs*, *grow* and *growth*, than from *fàs*, *waste*, from which *fàsach*, *a desert*.

**Faygarvick** = *féith a' ghàraidh bhig*, *the bog-stream*

with the small stone wall. Gàradh is in common use in Argyll, with this meaning of a stone dyke.

**Feshim** (Bagh) = N. *fjos*, a byre, + *holm-r*.

**Fishaig** (Druim) seems named upon the foregoing word, + *vík*. The hill rises from the bay.

**Foill** (*Ben and Bay*) is *treachery*—a name with a history, without doubt.

**Frisland** = N. *frjó* (neut.), *seed, crops*, + *land*.

**Gallanach**. See p. 41.

**Gorton** = an goirtean (p. 15).

**Iomallach** (Eilean), *remote*, at the *outskirt*, which is here very appropriate.

**Mine** (Port), *meal-port*, not an uncommon name. It must have a local history.

**Mhurain** (Port a'), *sea bent-grass*.

**Pharspig** (Sgeir), I can make nothing of.

**Ronard** (Loch) = *ròn* + *àrd*, pl. of *àird*, a height.

**Sheannlep**, from *sean*, *old*, + gen. *leapa*, of *leaba*, a bed, in the same sense as *feannag*, *faileann*, &c.

**Torastain** = *tòrr* + *Astain*, perhaps *Askain*, a Norse personal name. The *t* often takes the place of *k* in Manx names, e.g. *Reeast* for Gael. *riasg*, *dirk-grass*, *Sast* for *seasg*, *dry* (of a cow not giving milk).

**Totamore** = *tobhta*, a toft, knoll, + *mór*, great.

**Totronald** = *Ronald's toft*.

**Trailleach** (Bagh an), "a general name for sea-weeds," H. S. D. **Traille** (short), is the *tusk* (fish).

**Urbhaig** (Loch). N. *úrr*, the urox, + *vík* (note).

IV. **Bernera**, **Bodha** (dearg), **Bhoramuill** (Eilean), **Cornaig** (mór and beag), **Crossapol**, **Eleraig**, **Fishaig** (Druim), **Fiskarg**, **Grimisary**, **Grishapol**, **Gunna**, **Hogh** (Rudha, Beinn and Bay—with Ballyhaugh), **Mibost**, **Oronsay** (island), **So-a** (dis-syllable), **Sgolinnis**, **Sodis-**

*dale*, are all Norse, with Gaelic mixture some of them.

V. There is only one Church-name, Kilbride = **Cill-Brigite** (p. 160). **Loch Ghille-Caluim** and **Loch an t-sagairt** are side-names, but there is no sign of a church in their neighbourhood, on the east coast.

VI. MacNeill's Bay is the only Personal name. See p. 96.

### TIREE—Tiridhe

I. The name of Tiree has always been looked upon as Gaelic **Tir**, *land*, + gen. of the word **ioth**, *corn*, which still remains in **ioth-lann**, *a corn-yard*. The old form of the word was **ith**, with gen. **h-etho**. Ceres was called **Ban-dea h-etho**, *the goddess of corn*. Adamnan called the island *Ethica Terra*. That it was rich in corn is proved in many ways. The island used to be "callit in all tymes McConnell's girnell; for it is all teillit land, and nae girs but leyland quhilk is maist nurischand girs of ony other, quhairthrow the ky of this Ile abundis sa of milk that thai are milkit four times in the day." Such names as **Cornaig**, **Baile' mhuilinn**, Corn Mill, show still good evidence of the old reputation embodied in the island name.

II. There are a few English translations—the Moss, Middletown, Greenhill. The Reef is not a *reef*, but a large plain.

III. Considerably more than half the names of Tiree are Norse—in fact, the Norse feeling is very strong. In other parts we find Norse names upon sheltered bays, and running from the sea into the green fruitful valleys;

but in Tiree the Norseman was "thorough." He held it all and named it all. It is distinctly remarkable that the modern Gaelic names are found filtering inwards from the sea-border, and not outwards from the interior as is usually the case. The meaning of this is evident. The Norsemen kept to the sea, or within reach of it always, so that inland names and places escaped him, but in Tiree the old Gaelic names were blotted out, not only on the coast, but over the whole island, and Norse names took their place. The restoration of Gaelic has been from without, so that the inland names remain Norse.

It is peculiar to find so many Dùns, or "forts," in the island. In some parts they are within half a mile of each other.

**Acarsaid folaich**, *the hiding anchorage*—referring to its depth, of nearly a mile.

**Bailephetrish** seems to be *the stead of Petrus, Peter*, in Latin form.

**Bailephuill** = **baile a' phuill** (poll), *pool-farm*.

**Barradhu** (am), *the black Barr*, with wrong Agreement—should be **am Bàrr-dubh**.

**Bhéidhe** ('Traigh a'), *the Bay-shore*—of Baile phuill. This is simply the English *bay* assimilated. The commoner form is **Bàgh**, from the same source.

**Bhiosta** (Cnoc), the pl. of **biast**, *beast*.

**Bhodaich** (Stac a'), *the old man's stac*; N. **stakk-r**.

**Carachan** = **carragh**, *a stone-pillar* + **an**.

**Chircnis** (Ruinn) is N. **kirkja** + **nes**, *church-ness* in Gaelic form. The ruins are still there—marked "Temple" on the Survey map.

**Chrossain** (Poll a'), *the pool of the small across-land*.

**Cnap** (an) (p. 34).

**Cuigeas** (an), *the fifth* (part) *land*. Compare **ceathramh**, *a fourth part* (p. 18).

**Fhaodhail** (an), a very good example, long and narrow (p. 15).

**Fhoirningir** (Cnoc) seems to be N. *forn*, *old*, + *ing-ir* (pl.), as in *vík-ingir*, *the Bay-men*.

**Gott** (Bay) is *God*, or *God-man's bay*, referring perhaps to the old church at Kirkapol—a *priest*, from N. *godi*.

**Hanais** (Rudha). See Machri-hanish, &c., K., but here it is most likely *ha-r*, *high*, + *nes*.

**Iseannan** (na h-), *the chickens*—young of any bird.

**Kenovay** = **ceann a' bhàigh**, *the head of the Bay* (of Bailephetrish), with **Dùn ceann a' bhàigh**. See **Bheidhe**.

**Kenvar** = **ceann a' bharra**, *the head of the Barr*.

**Mannel** = N. *mann* + *voll-r*, *man-field* (?).

**Mealbhach** is sandy ground, or *dunes*, covered with *bent-grass*, from N. *mel-r*.

**Miodar** (am), *the meadow*, usually **Miadar**.

**Mòinteach**, *the peat-moss*.

**Riaghain** (Loch). *Riadhan* is *a snare*, and also *a swing*, and there was an old usage of the word for *gallows*—here, *a fishing line* most likely.

**Rosgail** = *ros* (p. 19) + **Goill** (Gall) with **Mullach nan Gall**—the Ross and Height of the foreigner.

**Ruaig** = **ruadh**, *red* (Colours) + **aig**.

**Salum** = N. *salt* + *holm-r*, *salt island*.

**Sgàthain** (Cùl), from *sgàth*, *shelter* + **ain**.

**Sràid ruadh**, *red-street*!

**Stànail** (Loch) = *stagn(um)* + **ail** (*note*).

**Thorbhais** (Ruinn) = **Shoirbheis**, *a fair wind* (with **th** used wrongly for **sh**, as in **Thunàgairidh**, p. 118).

**Vaul**, (and Bay) = N. *hvall*, *a hill*; therefore, hill Bay, referring to the Cnap there.

IV. The Norse names are so numerous that I do not state them here. They may be found in the Norse chapter. Many are pure, but some are mixed, as **Barra-pol**, **Bailin-oe**, **Creacha-sdal**, &c. The last of these contains **-stall-r** (p. 20), and not **-dal-r**, for the two of them are small island-rocks off the north-east coast. **Rudha Boraige móire** shows a peculiar feminine gen. of **borg-r**, *a fort*. Compare **Dùn-bhuirg**, M. The fort is here still, but under the Gaelic name **Dùn**.

V. Church-names are Kil-Kenneth = **Cill Choinnich** (p. 171), Kilmoluag = **Cill mo Lù-ag** (p. 172), with the ruins of the Chapel. There is a **Clachan mór**, the great *stone-church* on the north coast, and the "Temple" already mentioned on the south coast. **Kirkapol**, **Kirkton**, is the Norse record of a church which was there before the time of the invasion, the ruins of which are still visible.

VI. There is only one Personal name, **Port Chunn Nèill** (p. 96), on the north-east corner of the island.

### ULVA—Ulubha

I. The name is from N. **úlf-r**, a *wolf*, + *ey*, presumably because the wolf was a familiar animal there when the Norse arrived. "It is a plane land but ony hillis or woodis—ane lle twa mile lang ane mile braid."

II. There are no English names. MacQuarrie's Rock is a Survey translation.

III. **Ardali** = **àird àillidh** (p. 33).

**Bréideanach** (am), from **bréid**, *a clout*—fanciful.

**Brionn-pholl** = **breun-pholl** (?), (p. 134).

**Chrannag** (a'), *the pulpit*—fact or figurative.



**Diollaid** (Rudha na), *the saddle*—fanciful.

**Dun Bhiordmuill** = N. *bjart-r* + *mul-r*.

**Dun O'Chardachais**, a Personal name—Irish.

**Gallon** (Glac) = *gallan* (p. 41).

**Laghura** (Port nan), rightly *ladharra* (p. 121).

**Reilean** (Eilean nan), from *réidh*, *smooth*, *level*.

**Skeinidh** (Sgeir na)—*scàineadh*, *a split*, *division*.

**Trealbhan**, from *trealamh* + *an* (note).

IV. **Cuillinish**, **Olosary** (Beinn), **Ormaig**, are all Norse.

V. **Cill Mhic Eoghain** is the only Church-name.

VI. There are no names under this head.

**Geasgil** (mor and beag) and **Eorsa** (island) are in Loch na Ceall.

**Gometra**, from N., is *godr* + *maðr* + *ey*, *the good-* or *God-man's island*.

**Acarsaid mhór** is a very fine anchorage. See N. Voc.

**Bristeadh-ràmh** (Rudha) is *the oar-breaking point*, which surely tells a tale of troublesome navigation.

**Brù** (am), the shallow passage between Ulva and Gometra = N. *brú*, *a bridge*, or *crossing* (note).

**Dun - Iasgan** (Rudha) = **Dun(fh)iasgan**, gen. pl. of *fiasgan*, *a mussel*.

**Mine** (Maol na) is *the meal* + *mul-r*, *point*.

**Moisgeir** = N. *már*, *seamew*, + *sker*—but N. Voc.

**Little Colonsay**—See COLONSAY.

**Chicheamaig** (Port) = N. *kviga*, *heifer*, + *holm-r*, *island*, + *vík*, *heifer-isle Bay*.

**Sgaigean** (an island rock), from *sgag*, *crack*, *split*, + *an*.

**Eirisgeir** = N. *eyrr-ar* + *sker*.

**Staffa**, from N. *staf-r*, *a staff*, and other kindred meanings applied to the island here because of its *staffs* of columnar rock.

The few names are mostly English now—Fingal's

Cave, the Goat Cave, Mackinnon's Cave, the Great Face, the Causeway, which are all translations. They have been so rendered to make them understood to the tourist. **Port an fhasgaidh**, *shelter Bay*; **Meall na faoileann**, *the gull-hill*; and **am buachaille**, *the herdsman*, are yet Gaelic.

**Treshnish** (Islands) have a few interesting names. **Lunga**, which is Norse, has a **Calbh**, or *calf*, and the two most northern rocks have each a **Borg** of the old time, now *Castle* and *Fort*. The other names are Gaelic.

### IONA—Ì, and Ì Chaluim-Chille

I. Iona has its own great history, to which I can only refer in the very slightest way. This form of the name is an error—a misreading of the gen. form Ioua, or Iova. Ì, or Hì, is the correct nom., and other forms of the gen. are Hìa, Hìæ, Ìe, Ìa, Ìæ, &c., for full knowledge of which Reeves' "Adamnan" must be consulted. Scores of explanations have been offered of the name, many of them simply nonsense, none so far as I know conclusive. The island was consecrated (*offeravit*, p. 168) to St. Columba by Conall, King of Dalriada, A.D. 565. Its suffering at the hands of the Norseman and its great influence in the history of the early Church belong to general history.

II. Any English names are translations.

III. The Church, and the history of the Church, with a little of Norse, and about a third of simple Gaelic names, are the names in Iona.

**Bhréige** (Port an fhir). This surely commemorates an apostate—the port of *the lying*, or apostate, *one* (*note*).

**Boineach**, from **bó**, *a cow*, = **boin**, gen. + **-ach**.

**Bradhan** (Cnoc nam), better **brathan**, *querns' hill*.

**Chaorach** (Eilean na h-aon), *the island of the one sheep*.

**Carraig géire** (Rudha na), the Point of *the sharp rock*, from **geur**, *sharp, edged*.

**Curach** (Port na) is the port, or harbour, of *the coracle*—the port most probably at which landed Colum Cille and his apostles. There is a strong suggestion in this way coming from “the ruins” at the head of the bay, called in Gaelic, most appropriately, **làraichean**, or the foundation-marks of the old homes, and further from **Càrn cul ri Eirinn**, *the cairn (to mark) where we turned our back upon Erin*.

**Druidean** (Cnoc) = **cnoc druidhean**, *Druids' hillock*.

**Dun-Ì**, *the fort*, or rather *hill* (332), of *I, Iona*. Another peculiar form occurs in **Dun Cùl Bhuirg**, where **Dùn** follows upon a **Cùl** named upon the old **borg-r**.

**Eunaich** (Stac an), *fowling* (p. 16).

**Rabach** (Eilean), *stormy, rough, “dirty.”*

**Saimh** (Camus an t-), from N. **haf**, *the sea* (note).

**Sligneach**, from **slige**, *a shell* (p. 94).

IV. **Cailbhe** (Eilean) is the Gael. gen. of the Norse, and **Calva** on the mainland (that is, of Iona) is the same. **Cul-buirg** (Dun) is a mixture. **Dùn** is Gaelic, *a fort*; **Cùl** is Gaelic, *the back of*; and **buirg** is the Gaelic gen. of the Norse, **borg-r**; **Didil** (Eilean); **Musimul** (Eilean); **Staoineig** (Loch).

V. The Church is the atmosphere of Iona.

VI. Findlay's rocks (p. 73) and **Stac Mhic Mhurchaidh** (p. 96) are the only Personal names.

## JURA—DIÙRA

I. The island name is Norse, meaning *deer-island*—*dýr*, a deer, or indeed any wild beast, + *ey*, island.

**Scarba** also is Norse *skarf-r* + *ey*, the cormorant isle.

II. There are a few English names—Barnhill, Lowlandman's Bay, Milltown, &c., and mixtures like **Caigen-houses** and *Lang-aoineadh*.

(1) SCARBA AND THE SMALL ISLANDS belonging to Jura, on the North

III. **Belnahua** = *beul na h-uamha*, cave-mouth.

**Fladda** is *flat island*, N. *flat-r* + *ey*. It is interesting to notice the differences of form in this island name—Bladda, Fladda, Flatey, Pladda—quite a small lesson in consonantal change, which helps to explain **Scarba** from *skarf-r* + *ey*.

**Ormsa** is from *orm-r* + *ey*, "worm," or snake, island.

All the other names here are Gaelic.

**Fiolan**, which occurs three times in Lunga, might be taken for *faoileann*, in the sense of a white beach, only the word occurs in Scarba correctly spoken and written. It may not be impossible that the quasi-English "Fellon," a swelling (diseased), may be the meaning here—**Fiolan**, **Fiolan meadhonach**, and **Fiolan an droma**. The shape of the small islands would quite fit this rendering. **Fiolan** is Gaelic for an ear-wig and maggot, or worm. It may be used fancifully here. **Fiolan-fionn** was a morbid factor in old Gaelic pathology—a prophecy of the bacterium of the present day.

**Fùdan (am)**, a rock-island. The name is used of a small "stack," N. *stakk-r*.

**Garbh-eileach** and **Eileach an Naoimh** are not familiar forms. **Eileach** is a *mill-race* and a *mound* (H. S. D.). It may possibly, and not unlikely, come from old Gaelic, **ail**, a *rock*, + **ach**, and therefore the name would be a general term for *island-rock*. It is peculiar to find a Tarbert across **Garbh-eileach**, which is only a little over one mile long—the Tarbert being half a mile.

**Maol-buidhe**, the *yellow Mull*, is here masculine, following the Norse gender; it is usually feminine, following the Gaelic—from **maol**, *bald*.

**Urrachan** (na h-) can only be the gen. pl. of **urra**, an *infant*, or a *youth*, used fancifully of the hills here.

V. These small islands have quite an interesting place in the history of the old Church. A Retreat of St. Brendan is here, **Cùil-Bhrannain**. He is said to have founded a monastery here and in Tiree—*duo monasteria unum in insula Aileach, alterum in terra Ethica, in loco nomine Bledua, fundavit*. "The parsonage and vicarage of the islands of Ilichnive and Kilbrandon belonged to the priory of Oronsay, and were in 1630 granted, with the lands of Andrew, Bishop of Raphoe and prior of Oronsay, to John Campbell, Rector of Craignish" (Skene ii. 78, and O.P.). **Aileach an Naoimh** refers, of course, to *Saint* Brendan, later of Clonfert (p. 175). There are church ruins on the two Aileachs, a **Tobar Chaluim Chille** in Lunga, and a Kilmory in Scarba. We naturally wonder if **Camus a Mhòrfhir** is the Bay of the very *great man*—Columba.

VI. **Dun-Chonnaill** is the only Personal name. This seems to be one of the "dog"-names, of which scores remain, especially in Ireland—the Cynetae of Herodotus, "the most remote of all nations," from Greece.

## (2) NORTH OF TARBERT

III. The difficult names are :—

**Achlaise** (Doire na h-), *the armpit*—a body-name.

**Aoineadh dubh** (p. 12).

**Aoirinn** (Eilean na h-), from N. *eyr-r*, with a Gaelic genitive.

**Aros** (an). This is the Gaelic *aros*, a dwelling ("in ruins"), and not the N. *ár-os*, *river-mouth*, as in M.

**Atha** (Glac na h-), a *ford* here, not *àth*, a *kiln*.

**Bhalaich** (Lochan a'), a *lad*, therefore *the lochlet of the lad*, whoever he was. There is **Lochan Bàrr a' bhealaich** not far from it, but this word *bealach* is a *pass*.

**Bhaidseachan** (Gleann). The only word to fit this is *baidse*, which H. S. D. gives as a *musician's fee*. I do not know the word in that sense. I have heard it used of a baker's *batch* of bread, and of the Eng. *badge*.

**Bhuailte** (Camus a'), *flail-bay* (p. 141).

**Bhùrra** (Loch a'), clearly an uncommon gen. of *bùireadh*, *the rutting-season*.

**Breun-phort** is *foul-port*. The Adj. is of broad application. It essentially means *evil-smelling*, or *putrid*, but it has come to be used of weather, circumstances (as here), and even of conduct and character. This Port is very exposed, right open to the whole Atlantic.

**Cad** (Garbh uisge nan). This is Gaelic, but there is no *cad* in the language, so it must be *cat*, *the wild cat*.

**Càthar nan Eun**. **Càthar** is a *mossy high ground*.

**Chòta** (Cnoc a'). *Coat-hill*!

**Chuileag** (Camus nam meanbh-), *Midge-bay*. **Meanbh-chuileag** is literally *small-fly*. Compare **Meanbh-chrodh**, *small-cattle* = *sheep*; N. *small*, *sheep*.

**Conaire** (Loch na) with **Con-tom** on the east coast

suggests that the stem is **con**, gen. pl. of **cù**. See **Uanaire**.

**Corpach** (p. 14).

**Corryvreckan** = **coire-Bhreacain**, *B.'s cauldron*. "Now Breccan, son of Main, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages had fifty curraghs trading between Ireland and Scotland, until they fell at one time into the Caldron there, and there came from it not one, or not even tidings of destruction," &c. (C. 41).

**Crianan mór** (p. 40).

**Cruib** and **Loch a' Chruib**—figurative of the mountain, from **crùb**, *crouch*. N. **krjupa**, *to crouch*.

**Duirch** (Abhainn a' Ghlinn), *the river of the dark glen*—a good form of the adjective.

**Dunaiche** (Lochan na), the *L. of disaster and woe*.

**Gortinachro** = **goirtean a' chrò** (p. 15, and Voc.).

**Imriche** (Bealach na h-), *removal, fitting-Pass*.

**Kinniachdrach** = **Cinn** + **iochdar** + **ach**. **Iochedar** is from **ios**, *low*, as **Uachdar** is from **uas**, *high*; therefore, the *lower* part or place, and the *higher*.

**Lealt** = **leth** + **allt**, literally *half-burn*, the burn of the one side of a valley. See p. 21.

**Lùbanach** (Loch), is the loch with many *bendings* (**lùb**).

**Mhile** (Loch a'), *the Mile loch*—but why?

**Mì-mheall** (**breac** and **dubh**), a very peculiar name. **Mì** is the ordinary Gaelic negative of character or quality, e.g. **mì-bheus**, *ill-manners*, **mì-chliù**, *unfame* = of bad repute. It is, however, difficult to know how this element comes into this name. The one hill is 700 feet and the other 900 feet high, with **Dubh-bheinn** beside them, 1500 feet high. Perhaps they are, therefore, in the Irish sense, "no hill at all."

**Nualaidh** (Àiridh), the cry of deer, or even of cattle ; an imitative, beautiful word.

**Cluinneam nualann nan aighean**  
**Air na sraithean trom glé-gheal**  
**Mo Nighean donn.**

**Peacaich** (Loch na), the loch of the woman that *sinned*. The form is feminine. Was it a tragedy ? (*note*).

**Pioghaide** (Tom na), *Mag-pie hill*, the same as the Scots *pyet*.

**Rachdaig** (Àird) = N. *raku* + *vik*.

**Ruantallan** = *rudha an t-sallainn*, *salt-Point*.

**Sealga** (Tigh), *the hunting-house*. Other gens. are *seilg* and *seilge*.

**Seilcheig** (Cruach na), *Snail-mount*.

**Sgurra** (Loch na). This is gen. of **Sgùrr** (Hill-names). **Sgùrr Mhór** is near.

**Shian** = *sithean*, a good example of a name in *-an*, from *sith*, *a fairy*.

**Shiffin** (Loch). There is nothing in Gaelic that will explain this name, but one wonders whether it may not be a perversion of *sithean*. Almost the next loch to it is **Loch an t-sithean tarsuinn**. This last name, with the distinct qualification, *tarsuinn*, *across*, implies another **Loch Sithean**, with or without a qualification. We constantly meet *an gleann*, *the glen*, and if there is another it is usually *gleann beag*, or if the first is *an gleann mór*, the second must be *gleann beag*. It is important, however, to remember that Syfin, or Syffyn, was the same name as appears in the form Sweyn (p. 83). In A.D. 1261, according to *Reg. Pass.* (pp. 120, 136), Dufgal, son of Syfin, granted to the monks of Paisley the patronage of the church of St. Calmonel, K. (p. 169) ; and in 1296



the Bishop of Argyll "inspected" *Cartas Domini filii Dovenaldi et Dufgalli filii Syffyn*. The family of this name held all Kintyre and Knapdale when the Norse power was disappearing (p. 148).

**Speirige** (Gleann), *hawk-glen*.

**Staoin-bheinn** (p. 158), and, further, **staoin** means *awry*, or *bent*—probably the meaning here.

**Tairbh** (Allt an), *bull-Burn*.

**Tiobairt** (Port an) (p. 36).

**Truisealaich** (Rudha an), from **trus**, *gather*, *tuck up*, or *reef* or shorten sail (*note*).

**Ursannan** (na h-) *the lintels* or *doorposts*—figurative.

IV. The Norse names are **Aosdail** (Glen), **Bhlorgaig** (Beinn), **Debadail** (Glen), **Garrisdail** (Glen), **Grundail** (Glen), **Lussa** (Àrd, river), and **Lussa**-given, **Rainberg** (beag and mór), **Sgamadail** (Cruach), and **Trosdail** (Glen).

V. There are no Church-names in this part of the island.

VI. Personal names are **Loch Nigheann Aillein**, *the Loch of Allan's daughter*. Allan is akin to Lat. *alumnus*, *a fosterling*, and *ala*, *rear*. **Càrn Mhic-Eoghain** (p. 32). **Rudha Mhic'ille Mhaoil** (p. 75).

### (3) SOUTH OF TARBERT

**Aircill** (Loch an), *an ambush*, or *watching-place*.

**Ardfin** = àrd + fionn, *white*, or *bright*.

**Bile** (Loch na), *a bank*, *edge*, *lip*.

**Brat-Bheinn**, *a mantle*, or *covering*. It has quite a wide usage. It is the *counterpane* of a bed. It is applied

to a *covering* of grass or moss, as here, no doubt. For the same reason a hairy-covered *caterpillar* is **brat-ag**, and a *flag* is **brat-ach**, always conveying the same idea.

**Brodach** (Sloc), from **brod**, a *goad*, *prickle*.

**Cabrach**. **cabar** is (1) a "*caber*," *pole*, *rafter*; (2) a *stag-horn*. Both come into place-names. It is the second of the meanings here.

**Cairidh mhór**, the great **cairidh**, or *weir*.

**Cheò** (Poll a'), *mist*; therefore, the *mist-pool*.

**Corra-bheinn** = **còrr**, *excess*, *outgrowth*, + **bheinn**. See **Còrr** and **Corran** (p. 14).

**Corrynahera**, a mixed name = **Coire na h-erradh**, the "*corrie*" of the *high ground*.

**Crackaig** = **creag-aig**. This is the Gaelic dim., **-aig**, ending, and not the river **-aig**.

**Fearnal** (Àrd), from **feàrna**, the *alder-tree*, with an Adj. ending **-ail**; therefore, the *alder-wooded height*.

**Fìneag** (Meall nam)—**flonag** is an *insect*, *cheese-mite*, used generally of small insects.

**Fùdarlach** (Loch na), from **fùdar**, *powder*, + **lach**. It is upon the loch that the name is fixed.

**Glenbatrick** can only be Glen Patrick.

**Gobag** (Bàrr nan)—**gob** is the *bill*, or *beak*, of a bird, here used fancifully of the *hillocky Barr*. **Gobag**, *dog-fish*, because of its *beak-ed* nose, is out of the question here.

**Knockrome**, most likely **cnoc-crom**.

**Leanachais** (Rudh' an), the *flood-tide Point*, from an **lionadh**, the *flood-tide*.

**Mhalairt** (a'), the *Exchange*, the *market*. This name and the next following has a local history, which I am not able to give.

**Mhargaidh** (Loch a' bhaile), *a market* also, from Eng. *market*.

**Mhucraidh** (a'), *the pig-ry*, the place of pigs.

**Phlotha** (Caolas a'), from Gael. *caolas*, + *flói*, *a bay*, or *floti* (m.), *a fleet*.

**Siantaidh** (Beinn), *charmed*, or *blessed*, hill. It is here in the neighbourhood of Kilearnadale, as the same name is close to Kilchoan, A. There are other Church side-names here : **Rudha** and **Eilean Bhride**, Kiels, **Rudha na Cailliche**, **Rudha a' Chléirich**, and **Allt an t-sagairt** flowing down the mountain. The word *sian* or *seun* is akin to Lat. *signum*. See p. 94.

**Sil** (Geodha an t-), *seed*, *corn*, with N. *gja*, *chasm*.

**Slob** (Loch and Gleann an t-), *drift*, *snow-drift*.

**Sòrnaich** (Maol an t-), *Sorne*, *Druim-Sornaig*, M. Sornagan, Sorn, Surnaig, I. Primarily *a vent*, then *a furnace*, then a *vent-like windy Pass* or opening (p. 106).

**Tràille** (Rudha na). Although this name is accented long on the Survey map, I strongly suspect that the name should be short, as in **Trailleach** (p. 124). As it stands the meaning is *slave*, or *thrall Point*.

**Uanaire** (Coille na h-), from *uan*, *a lamb*, + *aire*, is a good comment on **Conaire**, which is a frequent name. **Conair** is *a path*, or *a way* in some uses, and **Conaire** is the herb *loose-strife* (*Lysimachia thrysiflora* Prim.), both which come into names; but there can be no doubt that it comes in also as **con**, *dogs*, + *aire*. The part *-aire* is a fem. form of *-ar*, *place of*.

IV. **Asdale**, **Bladda**, **Brosdale**, **Leasgamail**, **Linndail**, **Mearsamail**, **Menish** (Ard), **Sannaig**, **Scrinadale**, are Norse. **Iubharna-dale** does not suggest northern latitudes.

V. There are the ruins of an old chapel at the east

of the Tarbert, and **Eilean an easbuig**, or *Bishop's Isle*, at the other. This, with the few names mentioned under **Siantaidh**, is the whole record of the Church on the island. It should be noticed that Kil-earnadale is a secular **Cill**, named upon the Norse valley **Earnadale**. Columba and Brigit show in the names, and that is all.

VI. The Personal names not already noticed are **Chaluim Bhàin** (Carragh), the standing stone of *Calum the Fair*, with reference almost certainly to St. Columba, for the name is one of a Church group here.

**Mhic(gh)ille-Mhoire** (Àiridh) is one of the **gille** names, like Gilchrist, Gillespie, and Gillies (p. 99). It means *the Servant of St. Mary*. It does not seem now to remain in any of our Scottish names.

**Mhic-Fhionnlaidh** (Tigh) is *Mackinlay's house*—from **fionn-laoch**, *fair hero*.

**Macdougall's Bay**, **Lochan Mhic-a-phì**, and **Rudha-chan Eoghainn** have been already explained.

COLONSAY—**Colo(n)sa**  
and ORONSAY—**Oro(n)sa**

I. As stated under Coll (p. 122), the most probable and very pertinent base of the name is **koll-r**, a *hill-top, summit*. There is no **n** in the Gaelic vocalisation of the name, although it occurs in at least one of the Sagas as **koln**. But that this **n** is not a reliable element is shown by that it occurs in Oronsay, which without doubt is **orffris-ey**, meaning an island which is only an island at high-water.

II. There are no English names. The Strand is a

simple translation of **tràigh**, *a shore*. Machrins is the English plural of **Machairean**, which itself is plural—the *carses*.

III. The names here are exceptionally interesting, for a place so small. The Gaelic names are a distinct addition to the rest of the county. Norse names are in good proportion, as are also the Church and Dùn names.

**Balarumin-dubh** and **-mór**. See **ruime** (p. 147).

**Balnahard** = **baile na h-àirde**, *the steadying on the Aird*.

**Bhuailtein** (Port a'). *flail-Port* (p. 134).

**Bonaveh** = **bun a' bheithe** = **bun** + **beithe**, *birch*. The best rendering of **Bun** is the opposite of **Bàrr** (p. 12). It is always followed by its specific genitive, as in **Bun na h-abhann**, A.I., *the mouth, or end, of the river*; **Bun-dóbhraín**, *the mouth of the river Doran*; **bun na beinne**, *the foot of the mountain*; **bun a' ghlinne**, *the end (lower) of the glen*; **bun na craoibhe**, *the stump of the tree*, and so on, always meaning the thicker, or bottom, part on which the whole stream, river, glen, or hill is conceived to rest. **Bun-aid** is *a foundation*—the same idea.

In this name, **Bun a' bheithe**, the word **bun** is without its proper specific term, and is a noun absolute, taking a "remote" genitive, like, say, **bun (beinne) a' bheithe**.

**Carraigean** (an), the dim. of **carraig**, *a rock*.

**Chaointe** (Càrn), from **caoinich**, *dry*, "*season*," a participle, with wrong Agreement = **Càrn caointe**.

**Coinnle** (Càrn), *the candle-cairn*—possibly referring to a New Year, or *Kalend*, function.

**Croise bric**—an unusual form, but certainly referring to the Stone Cross, quite near. The best suggestion is that the governing word is either omitted or lost, and that the full name should be, say (Rudha na) **Croise brice**, *the Point of the grey, or speckled, Cross*.

**Cupaig** (an) must be related to Eng. *cup*, + **aig**. It may mean *Cup-Bay*, referring to the shape of the bay, and following the Norse grammar.

**Duilisg** (Eilean an), *dulse-island*. The word has been referred to as **duill(eag)uisge**, *water-leaf*, which is quite pertinent, and, from the language side, quite possible.

**Frith-sgeir** is the *against sgeir*—the “skerry” *against* the other. Compare **Frith-allt** (p. 86).

**Grùdairean** (Beinn nan), *Brewers' hill*.

**Lotha** (Port), *a female colt*; therefore, *Colt-island*.

**Mhucaig** (Eilean), the plural of **muc** + **aig**.

**Milbuie** = **am Maol buidhe**, *yellow round hill*.

**Plaide mhor**, *the great blanket*—fanciful. It is not an island, so that it is not a wrong rendering of **Pladda** (p. 132).

**Reasagbuie** is for **riasg**, a moor covered with *dirk-grass*, + **ag** + **buidhe**, *yellow*.

**Ruiteachan eòrna**, from **ruiteach**, *ruddy*, + **an**, with **eòrna**, *barley*.

**Sàil** (an t-), *the heel*—a very good application at this place, the heel of the island of Oronsay.

**Scruitten**, from **scrut**, *any lean creature*, + **an**, perhaps applied here to the place itself.

**Sheallaidh** (Traigh), with **Druim mòr**, *the watching shore*, or *the outlook*—almost certainly from the hill.

**Suiridhe** (Meall na), *the courting hill*!

**Treidhreach** (Eilean), from old **treadh**, *the ebb*—an island only at ebb, as Oronsay itself is.

**Turnicil** = **tùr na cille** (of Cill Choinnich), which I however doubt.

IV. The Norse names, in whole or in part, are the island names : **Colonsay**, **Oronsay**, **Olmsa**, **Ghardmail**

(Eilean), **Sgalasalg**, **Sgiobinish** (Port), **Alanais** (Rudh' àird), **Staosunaig** (Loch), **Ard-skenish**, **Urugaig**.

V. Church-names are **Cill-Chatlain** (p. 175), **Cill-Choinnich** (p. 171), Kilmory (Mary), **Cill**, and **Tobar-Odhraim** (p. 176), and the remains of **Teampull a' ghlinne**, *the temple in the glen*.

VI. **Càrnan Eoin** (*John's small cairn*) might be with the Church-names, perhaps. **Iomhair** (Rudha Mhic), **Mhàrtainn** (Eilean), **Fhionnlaigh** (Eilean), and **Shomhairle** (Airidh), are already referred to. **Loch Cholla**, *Coll's loch*, and his **Dùn** is here too. The name has been referred to an old **col** and **cel**, *high*, or *lofty* ; therefore, *the lofty one*. This is the Dùn of Colkitto = **Colla ciotach**, or the *left-handed Coll*, a native of Colonsay, who played a part in the "feuds" between the Macdonalds and the Campbells in the early part of the seventeenth century.

ISLAY—**ILE**

I. The meaning of the name is not known. It seems to be "a fragment of an earlier world." I think it is almost certain that the end syllable is N. *ey*; but for the first part I can offer no suggestion. My feeling is entirely with Skene—that the name is pre-Keltic, with probable kindred to Basque names of the same form. Any attempt to explain the name from the forms of the modern Gaelic must fail, as such always have failed; and even our best scholars who have tried the old, or even oldest language, to the utmost have failed, if I may at all judge.

II. There are many English names in Islay, nearly all of which are translations, like Blackrock, Bridgend, Castlehill, Heatherhouses; but a few, like Balaclava, Port Charlotte, Rosalind, are clearly modern creations or imports. Craigens is a plural English form of Gaelic *na Creagain*, and Sunderland, locally *Sionarlann*, points to a hybrid N. *sjón-ar* + Gael. *-lann*, *an enclosure*.

III. The names of Islay are by no means easy. I have had distinct assistance from "The New Guide to Islay," by the Rev. J. G. MacNeill; and even if I am compelled to reject some of his renderings, and though the work as regards Names makes no claim to completeness, it is yet so full of the local life and colour that I desire to commend it strongly. He states the various guesses upon the meaning of the name fully.

(1) FROM RUDH' A' MHAIL TO LOCHINDAAL—East of Loch Gruineart

**Ardnahoe** = **Aird na haug-r**, "*howe*," *cairn*.

**Askaig** (Port-) = **Port** + *ask-r* + *vik*, *the port of the ash* (wooded) *Bay*.



**Bachlaig** (and Rudha), the name seems to have started from Lat. *baculum*, a staff, which in Gaelic became **bachull**, a shepherd's crook, and then, by another remove, a bishop's *crozier*, and from this again, **bachlag**, for **bachullag**, the shoot, of a potato for instance, with its curved head. The use of the word in this name is clearly fanciful.

**Ballachroy** = **bealach-ruadh**, the red-coloured pass.

**Ballychluvin** = **bail' a' chlamhain**, kite-town.

**Ballygrant** = **bail' a' ghràna**, grain-town.

**Balole** = **bail' Olaf**, Olaf's farm.

**Balulve** = **bail' Uilf**, a personal name from **ulfr**, a wolf.

**Bhirgeadain** (Sliabh). This looks like a Gaelic gen. of **borg** + Gael. -ad-ain. Compare **Dùn-bhuirg**, M.

**Bhoraraic** (Dùn) = **Dùn + borg-ar + vík**. The structure of the name is thus—the Norseman found a fort there, and he named the bay upon it, **Borg-ar + vík**; when he left, the native restored or added his own **Dùn**. This name, **Dùn-Bhoraraic**, occurs in the Rhinns (2) division also, and strangely enough with a Lossit near it, as is the case also on the Sound on the east coast.

**Bhruichlinn** (Dùn), should be **Dùn - Bhrolchain**. "Donald O'Brolchan was Abbot of Iona, and Sir John O'Brolchan was Rector of Kildalton in 1548." The **Dùn** was called after one of this name.

**Bhuilg** (Raon a') = **raon**, a plain, + **balg**, a bag.

**Boglach nan tarbh**, the marsh, or wet place (**bog**), of the bulls.

**Bonahaven** (and Bay) = **bun na h-abhann** (p. 141).

**Bròach** (Lochan). There are several meanings of the word in the old language, the appropriateness of which in this application may be discussed to better advantage in the *notes*.

**Cachla** (Tigh na), *the house by the hurdle-gate*.

**Cadhan** (Loch nan), *wild-goose Loch*.

**Carnaine** = **carn** + **àine**, *light*. The position suggests a light put on the height as a guide to mariners.

**Chaim** (Cnoc a' ghamhna), *the hillock of the one-eyed stirk*.

**Chàrdaidh** (Gleann a'), *carding glen*. There is "Carding Mill" on the next river, Sorn.

**Cheapasaidh** (Dun) = **ceap** (as in Ceapach), + **as** (as in Caol-as, Bearnas, &c.), + **aidh**; but it is almost certain this is the native rendering of **Keppols-aidh**.

**Chlaigionn** (Seann), *a skull*, but applied to *a field* of the best land.

**Corra-ghoirtean** = **còrr** + **goirtean** (p. 14).

**Croiseachan** (Sliabh nan), *the hill of the Crosses*, near Corsapol and Cill-Eileagain.

**Dluich**, from **dlùbh**, *close, near*, + **fhaich**, *field*.

**Duisker** = **dubh** + **uisge**, + **ir**, *the black-Water*—not a common river-ending. **Liver** (p. 72).

**Eacharnach** = **each**, *horse* (here in pl. sense) + **ar(n)-ach**.

**Earaibh** (Beinn na h-) from N. **har**, *high*, the height. It would be better **na h-earaidh**. In Lewis it is pl., **na herradh**.

**Eararach** (Staoinsha), *the eastern Staoinsha* (p. 158).

**Emaraconart** = **iomaire**, *a "rigg" of cultivated land*, + **comhnard**, *level*.

**Feamaindean** (na) from **feamainn**, *sea-weed*; therefore, *sea-weed places*. The **d** is easily developed after **n**, in fact it here takes the place of the second **n** of the stem. Compare **Airidh nam fanndach** (p. 42), Ballygrant (p. 145), Lanndaidh (p. 157).

**Finnlagan** (and Loch) = **fionn**, *fair, white*, + **lag-an**.

**Ghibeach** (Beinn), *hairy, ragged-Mount*.

**Ghilleán** (Baile), from **gille**, *a lad*, not an infrequent element in names—*Lads'-town*.

**Giùr-bheinn** (and Loch). **Giùr** is *the gill* of fish (*note*).

**Keppolmore** = gen. of N. **kappal**, *a horse*, + **bol** + Gaelic **mór**.

**Knockdon** = **Cnoc-donn**, *the dun hillock*.

**Lamh-bheinn** = **leamh-bheinn**, *elm-hill*.

**Leanachoig** = **lean a' choirce**, *oats-plain*.

**Logan** (Glen) = **Gleann-lagan**, *the glen of the little hollows*.

**Lossit** (Dun and Loch), figurative, from **losaid**, *a kneading-trough*.

**Luidhneis** (Rudha)—**lág-r** + **nes**, *low Ness*.

**Màla** (am), *the bag* of the bag-pipes, figurative here. The next name has been referred to this word, but it is impossible.

**Mhàil** (Rhudha a'). The meanings offered for this name are unsatisfactory. The correct explanation must, I think, be that this is the N. **hvall**, *hill*, with likely the generic governing part dropped—as we say **a' Mhaol** for *the Mull* (of Kintyre).

**Mulreesh**, said to be a Gaelic "**mael**," or monk, but I have not been able to discover him.

**Niar** (Bealach gaoth-), *the Pass of the west-wind*.

**Octavullin**, *the O*, or *eighth*, *pertaining to the mill* = **ochdamh a' mhuilinn**.

**Ruime** and **Rumach** (an). **Ruimineach** is old Gaelic for *a marsh*, and Mb. gives **Rumach**, *a marsh*, without etymology. It may easily be akin to **ròmach**, *hairy*, or *rough*, of surface.

**Runastach** (Stuadh) — **reynir** + **stakkl**, *the rowan "stack."*

**Samhlaidh** (Cnoc an t-), *semblance, likeness*; therefore, *a spectre, ghost*.

**Scanlistle** is almost certainly for Scallasdal = N. *skalli* + *dal-r*, *sheiling-dale*.

**Scouller**. See **Scoull** (p. 64) + *ar*.

**Sgarail**. See **Sgarbh**, following.

**Sgarbh dubh** and **breac, gualann an Sgairbh**, and **Biod nan sgarbh**, and **Sgarail**, which is almost certainly based upon the same word, **Sgarbh**, *the cormorant*. The mountain is the starting-point of the name, and the figurative application of the bird-name may be compared to the use of **faoileann** and **feannag**.

**Shùn-bheinn** seems to be a reversion from Norse—a translation of N. *fjall-r* to **beinn**, while retaining the N. *shún* = *sjón*, *sight*.

**Sibhinn** (Loch) is discussed (p. 136), but further **sibhin**, older **simhin**, is *the bulrush* (C. 150).

**Skerrols** (and Loch), looks like a sea-term taken inland, N. *sker* + *bols*, *skerry-farm*.

**Sliabh aom**, *the inclining hill*, or *hill-side*.

**Sopachan** (an) = *sop*, *a wisp*, + *ach-an*.

**Sorn** (Loch)—in Ireland, always *a kiln* (p. 139).

**Staoinsha** and **Staoinsha Eararach** (p. 137).

**Storackaig** = *stórr*, *big*, + *akr*, *a field*, + Gael. *-aig*.

**Tais-bheinn**, a peculiar use of *tais*, *soft*.

**Tamhanachd** (an) = *an t-samb(n)ach* (*note*).

**Taoid** (Goirtean an). **Taod** is *a halter*, and is almost certainly the word here; but **saod**, the leading of cattle to the hill-pasture—the “ridding” as used in Yorkshire—is equally appropriate, as **Goirtean an t-saoid**.

**Tayanock** = *tigh a' chnoic*, *the house on the hillock*.

**Thrasda** (Beinn), a form of **tar**, *across* = Lat. *trans*, not now in common use, *the across-Ben*.

**Tiompain** (Clach an), primarily a musical instrument, but applied to *a one-sided knoll*.

**Tirevagain** = *tir a' mhathagain* seems a Personal name (*cf.* Tiretagain, K. Tirarragain, M.).

**Uamhannan donna**, *the dun caves*. See the pl. in E. (p. 78)—**na h-uamhachan**.

IV. Norse names are so numerous in Islay that they have of necessity to be put into the vocabulary (p. 220).

V. The Church-names are Killanallan = **Cill an àilein**, *the church on the green meadow*; **Cill Bhreannain** (p. 175), **Cill Chaluim Chille** (p. 166), with Kiels, and the N. **Persabus**, or *Priest's steading*; Killarow = **Cill Mhaelrubha** (p. 174), **Cill-Eilleagain**, Kilmeny, and Kilslevan.

VI. Personal names occur in **Baile Aonghais** (p. 107), **Cnoc Dhiarmaid**, **Airidh Mhic-Dhòmhnaill** (p. 37), **Port Dhomhnaill Chruim**, **Baile Mhàrtuinn**, and **Loch Mhurchaidh**, with those mentioned above.

## (2) WEST OF LOCHGRUINEART AND LOCHINDAAL

**Àmaind** (Gleann), said to be *a mountain-river*. I am disposed, from its situation, to refer it to **ámot** (p. 24). The meeting of the streams here fits the name exactly, and besides I do not know any other word like **àmaind**. See **Cnoc-amanta**.

**Aoradh**, N. **eyrr**, + Gael. **-adh**, fits the language and position well—perhaps even better of old time.

**Arish** (Loch), from old **airghis**, *a bond*, which is very interesting and correct in this name.

**Aruadh** = **àth-ruadh**, *the red-ford*.

**Ballinaby** = *bail' an aba*, the Abbot's farm.

**Ballymony** = *bail' a' mhonaidh*, the farm on the hill.

**Bhì-buirn** (Cnoc), the quiet, silent Burn. See **Miodha-puirn**.

**Bhrothain** (Sliabh). See **Bròach** (p. 145).

**Boghacha móra**, this is the Gaelic pl. of the N. *boði*, a breaker.

**Braibruich**, the top of the "brae," a very simple, but very interesting name. It is made up of **bràighe** + **bruthach**, both elements of which are usually rendered as "brae." The **bràighe** part, however, is the "brae" proper, or upper part or top—a definite point; but the **bruthach** is an acclivity or uphill, of some continuous extent. It is in this last sense that the saying, "a stout heart for a stey brae," applies.

**Braid** (am) = **am bràghad**, the gen. form of the word **bràighe**, here used for the nominative.

**Braigo** is two miles inland, so **breidr** + **gja** must be rejected. Perhaps Gael. **bràigh** + **gja**.

**Bruichladdich** = **bruthach** + **cladach**, shore-brae.

**Charra** (Gart a'), the field with the standing stone or stone pillar.

**Chrosprig** (Dùn), usually taken to have origin from N. *kross*, a cross, and *borg-r*, fort, taking the Gaelic inflections. This may be correct, but it presents difficulties. The **-prig** part may have come from *borg-r* by the Gaelic gen. inflection, as in **Dun-bhuirg**, but not easily; and if this part is a genitive the first must be of necessity Gaelic and not Norse; and, again, if the first part is Gaelic, violence is done to the language by the form **Dun-Chrosprig**. Further, the name implies that **Crosprig** was earlier than the **Dun-** named on it, although this form is quite possible and even common,

*e.g.* **Glen-eigadail** = *glen-oak-glen*, &c. Furthermore, there is the very disturbing name, **An Gro-is-sgeir**, as one of the group, and **Cnoc Choisprig** on the other side of Kil-Chiarain Bay. The name is certainly not settled.

**Cladville** (and Beinn). I do not think there can be any doubt that these names are related to **claddich**, *the shore-farm*, quite near. Cladville might come from Norse, though not easily, and then only through the mountain name **Beinn-Chladville**, of which the last part may be Gaelic gen. of **meall** as easily as of *fjall*.

**Coite** (Allt na), *a small boat, a ferry-boat* (p. 91).

**Conailbhe** (Loch), most likely **Congheile** (p. 59), from the meeting of the streams at Kilchiarain.

**Coultersay** = **Cul** + *Thors-ey*.

**Cultoön**, "**Cùl-tuinidhe**, *a cave-dwelling*." If the last part is right, the first would be better as **Cùil**. **Tuineadh** is *an abode*, or *dwelling*, and in Argyll the verb **a' tuineadh**, *living*, or *dwelling*, there, is in free use.

**Dhubhain** (Cladh)—a Personal name, from **dubh**, *black*, or *dark*, cf. Finan. **Cladh Haco** is near.

**Damaoidh** (Survey map) is **Dun-Aoidh**, *Hugh's fort*. **Rudh' an dùin** is quite near.

**Earasaid**. There seems no need to go outside Gaelic for the meaning of this name, which is quite a familiar word as applied to *a woman's shoulder-plaid*. The application is of course fanciful.

**Eilister** (East, West, and Port), locally **Aolastradh**, likely **Hellis** (Pers. name), or **hellir**, *a cave*, + **set-r**, *seat*, or *home*.

**Fléisgein** (Traigh), for **pleasgan**, to *plash*, the sound of disturbed water.

**Gamaghoath** and **Port gleann na gaoithe** is from

**gaoth**, *wind*, and the first name may be **cama-ghaoth**, or a place where wind comes in tortuous gusts.

**Gearach** (and Loch) is from N. *gerdi*, *a fenced field*, rather than from Gaelic *geàrrach*.

**Ghlamraidh** (Rudha a'), from *glam*, *devour*.

**Gortan longerst** = **gort** (p. 15) + **longairt** (p. 25).

**Graineil** = N. *graenn* + *voll-r*, *green-field*.

**Grulin** (mòr and beag) I have based upon Gael. **groth** (p. 117), but in Islay, and in the Rhinns especially, N. *grýla* is possible.

**Leek**, gen. of **leac** (p. 16), with first part lost.

**Lochindaal** = **Loch an dàla**, from old Gaelic *dàl*, *dàil*, *a portion, district, division*, as in *Dàl-riada*. **Dál .i. rand**, *a division*, inde dicitur, *Dál-Rlata*, and *Dál nAraide* (C. 52).

**Lorgbow** = **lorg**, *a footprint*, + **bò**, *a cow*. There is a hollow in a flat rock at the place resembling the impress of a cow's foot, whence the name.

**Lossit** = **losaid**, *a kneading-trough*. The reason why this place was so called belongs entirely to the province of imagination.

**Luig** (Tràigh an), the gen. of **lag**, *a hollow*. This seems to be straining after a genitive, but it is not at all uncommon—**allt**, **uillt**; **carn**, **cùirn**, &c.

**Miadar** (am, *twice*), seems to be the same stem as Eng. *meadow*. N. *midr*, *middle*, would often fit the positions of the name.

**Miodhapuirn** (Cnoc), same as **Bhìth-buirn**.

**Mùirne-meall**, a Gaelic name following the Norse order perhaps, though not necessarily so. That **mùirne** is Gaelic is made certain by the gen. termination, which cannot be Norse. **Mùirn** is *joy, gladness*, therefore *the hill of joy*. For **Meall**, see Hills.



**Nave** (Ard) = àird an naoimh (with Island, **Cill**, and Loch), all named upon the *Saint* of **Cill-naoimh**.

**Octafad** and **Octomore** = ochdamh fada and ochdamh mòr, the *long* and the *great eighth* (p. 18).

**Peileirean** (na), *the bullets*—fanciful.

**Port Charlotte**, named after “Lady Charlotte, mother of the late Mr. W. F. Campbell of Islay, and one of the beauties of the Court of George IV.” The hamlet was previously called Sgiba = N. **Shipton**.

**Portwick**, a mixture ; **port** + **vík**, *Port-bay*.

**Portnahaven** = **Port na h-abhann**, *the river-Port*.

**Port Wemyss** “is very appropriately in Gaelic Bun-othan, Bunaven for **Bun na h-aibhne**.” I respectfully submit that there is a valuable fact in this statement and probably an error. The fact, as I take it to be, is that **-othan** is a characteristic of the stream, and that **-an** is the usual ending = *Water*, and that it may be the same element as in Dunoon, Gaelic **Dun-othan**, although I have rendered it **Dun-omhan** for a reason (p. 51). The error is that Bun-othan cannot be for **Bun na h-aibhne**.

**Ruime** (Loch) See p. 147.

**Sgallaidh** (Àiridh) = N. **skalli**, *a naked hill*, or *head-land*, + Gael. **-aidh**. See **Allalaidh**, N. Voc.

**Shùgain** (Cnoc an fhraoich). **Sùgain** is *a twisted rope* (of heather), and the heather of this hill was specially suitable for the purpose.

**Sionnarlann** = N. **sjon-ar** + Gael. **lann** (p. 144).

**Smaull** = N. **smá** + **bhol**, *small town*. **Smáli** does not fit appropriately.

**Tayvullin** = **tigh a' mhuilinn**, *the Mill-house*.

**Teamhair** (Druim) = Irish Tàra, “every place from which there is a good prospect” (C. 157).

**Tòn** (àiridh and mhòr). This is a favourite imagining in Islay. The **tòn-mhòr** is a fine example.

**Torony** = **tòrr rainich**, *fern-hill* (Hills). Note the Islay preference of o to a. See Glen-logan, Gart-chossan, Bun-othan, &c.

**Turnachaidh** = **tùrn**, *stronghold*, "tower," + **achadh**, *a field*.

**Uisgentuie** = **uisge an t-suidhe**, *the water* by which travellers *sat* to refresh themselves.

**Valoor** = **bail' ùr**, *new-town*, evidently with a governing word lost, for this is in gen. form.

V. The Church-names are Kilchiaran = **Cill Chiarain** (p. 170), Kilchomain = **Cill Chommain** (p. 177), Kilnave = **Cill naeimh**, Kilronan = **Cill Rònain** (p. 182), and **Cladh Ghille Moire**, *the burial-place of Gille Mhoire, the servant of Mary*.

VI. There is **Eilean Mhic Coinnich**, *MacKenneth's isle*, or Mackenzie's isle, **Càrn Donachy** (p. 37), and **cladh Haco**, *Haco's burial-place*. **Tobar Nèill neònaich**—this *eccentric* Neill, whose *Well* is here, was a Macphee, and "a man of great influence during the stirring times of Angus Macdonald of Islay."

### (3) SOUTH OF (1) EAST OF LOCHINDAAL

**Àiridh Mhaol Chaluim**, *Colum's*, or *Columba's*, **àiridh**, or that of one of his followers.

**Amanta** (Cnoc), certainly based on **amot**.

**Ardenistie** = **àird an uisge**, *the water-height*. This change of **g**, or **c**, for **t** is exceptional in Scottish names, although it is frequent in the names of Man—**reast** for **G. riasg**, **sast** for **G. seasg**, *dry*, &c.

**Ardillestry.** See *Èillistir* (p. 151).

**Ardimersay**, the **Àird** named upon the island **Imersay**, which stands out from it. **Immers-ay** means **ymirs-ey**, *island*, but see **ymir** in Voc.

**Avenvogie** = **abhainn** + **bhogaidh**, *soft*, or *boggy-land river*.

**Avinlussa** is a hybrid of **abhainn** + **lys-á**.

**Baileneachtain**, *Nectan's farm-steading*.

**Bhogachain** (Sgòrr), from **bog**, *wet, soft*, + **ach-ain**.

**Bheigeir** (Beinn) seems from a River-name.

**Borrachill**, *the fort-hill*. N. **borg-r**.

**Bowmore** is **am Bodha mór**, from **bodh**, *a sea-rock*.

**Braighunasary**, **bràigh**, "*brae*," + N. **sunna** + **erg**, *the high ground of the sunny-sheiling*.

**Bulàiridhe** = **bun** (p. 141), **làiridhe**—the same as **làirig** (p. 17).

**Chadalaidh** (Cnoc a'). This must be from **cadal**, *sleep*, thus **cadal-(a)d-aidh**. Compare **Cadal-(a)d-an** (p. 56) and **Cnoc a' chadail**, A. (p. 92).

**Chatraigain** (Baile), *Catrigan's farm*.

**Chladain** (Rudha a'), from **clàdan**, *a burr-bush*.

**Choiredail** (Gleann) = Gael. **coire**, *a corrie*, + N. **dal-r**.

**Chonasairidh** (Càrn), *the whin, furze*, + **àiridh**, or **con**, gen. pl. of **cù**, *a dog*, + **as** + **àiridh**.

**Churalaich** (Beinn), *the marshy-mountain*.

**Coirelach** = **coire**, *corrie*, + **lach**, *the place of corries* (p. 27).

**Corrary** = **còrr** + **àiridh**. See both parts (pp. 14, 19).

**Craobhach** (Allt). It depends upon actual conditions whether this is **craobhach**, *tree-y*, which Burns frequently are, or whether it is from **craobh**, *foam*, with prejudice for the latter.

**Dealachan** (Lochan nan), *the lakelet of the leeches*.

**Dronnach** (Cnoc), from **dronn**, *the back*, of the same origin as **druim** (p. 15).

**Duich** (and River) is from **dubh**, *black*, or *dark*, with perhaps **faich**, *a field*; or better, the terminal **-aich**. In this neighbourhood **dubh** is very common—**Torra-dubh**, **Torran-dubh**, **Airidh-dhubh**, **Eilean muice-duibhe**, all together.

**Eidhne** (Leac), gen. of **Eidheann**, *ivy*.

**Emeravale** = **iomair**, *a "rigg" of cultivated land*, + **màl**, *rent*; therefore, *the rent-rigg*, the produce of which went to pay the landlord.

**Frògach** (Allt), from **fròg**, *a hole*, *a den*.

**Gallan** (Poll nan), *a rock*, or *standing-stone*, but p. 41.

**Gartchossan**, **Gartloist**, **Gartmain**, **Gartnatra** = **gart** (p. 15) + **cossan**, *a footpath*; **loisgte**, *burnt*; **meadhoin**, *middle*; **na tràgha**, *of the shore*.

**Ghuail** (Coill a'), *the (char-) coal wood*, where charcoal was made of wood.

**Giol** is N. **geil**, *a narrow glen*—the *Ghyll* of the North of England.

**Glenastle**. This cannot be *Glen-river-dale*, because the N. gen of **á** is **á-r**. It is almost certainly **Gleann-astail**, from **astail**, or (fh)**astail**, *a holding*, or *dwelling*.

**Glengolach** = **gleann gòbhlach**, *the forked*, or *fork-shaped*, *glen*. The **gobhal** of Gaelic is always a two-pronged idea. As a body-name, it is the *fork*—between the two legs—and this is the figure and meaning of the name in all its applications.

**Greastle** is N. **gras**, *grass*, + **dal-r**, *a dale*.

**Iarnan** (Loch). **Iarna** is *a hank of yarn*, and this is the plural; therefore, *the Loch of the hanks* (note).

**Iriseig** (Druim). **Iris** is the twisted wither by which a creel or basket is carried or suspended.

**Knockangle** = **cnoc** + **aingil**, *the fire-hillock*, referring no doubt to a hillock upon which watch-fires, or need-fires, were lit.

**Lagavulin** = **lag a' mhuilinn**, *the hollow in which the mill is*, or was.

**Lanndaidh**, from **lann**, *an enclosure*, with developed **d**, which easily comes after **-ann**.

**Leanamore**, *the great meadow*.

**Leodamais** (Loch) = **ljót-r** + **holm-r**, + Gael. gen., perhaps because the island-rocks at the mouth are so *ugly*.

**Leora** (Glen), the glen of the *loamy-river*, from **N. leir** + **á**.

**Lipachlairy** = **leòb a' chléirich**, *the cleric's* (of **Cill-Neachtain**) *patch* (of land).

**Machry** (Glen) = **Gleann na machrach** (p. 17).

**Méise bàine** (Rudha na), the Point of the white "*dish*," or platter (fanciful certainly), from **mias** + **bàn**, *white*.

**Mùchairt** (Loch), old **mùch**, *smoke*, + **àird**.

**Nigheadaireachd** (Lochan na), the loch in which *the washing* was done, from **nigh**, *wash*.

**Pliadan dubha**. **Pliad** is *a plot* of ground; therefore, *the black plots*.

**Port Ellen**, "named after Ellenor, first wife of the late W. F. Campbell of Islay."

**Proaig** and **Lephroaig** have been explained as **breid-r** + **vík**, *broad-bay*, but this does not come easily.

**Rosquern** (River) = **ros a' chùirn** (**càrn**).

**Sholum** (Loch, and Beinn). See **sula**, N. Voc.

**Slievevin** = **sliabh-eibhinn**, *the happy, pleasant hill*.

**Slugaide glas**, from **slug**, *swallow*; therefore, *a gulley*, or *gullet*, usually worn out of the rock by the current.

**Staoin** (Abhainn), *the river of Staoin*, which last is Gaelic for *juniper*; therefore, the place where juniper abounded, unless it be from N. **steln**, *a stone*. The forms Staoinisha distinctly suggest the latter Norse rendering, with the **-s** gen. of the masc. strong declension.

**Stremnish** is Norse = **straum-r** + **nes**, *stream-ness*.

**Sùrdag** (Mòine na). **Sùrdag** is a well-known Gaelic word for a specially hearty "*spurt*" of effort in work, and this may quite well be the meaning here. **Mòine** is *a peat-moss*.

**Tachree** (Clach an). This looks very simple as **clach an tachraidh**, *the stone of the meeting*, with its own local history, no doubt; but it has been explained as **clachan an tàchraidh**, *the hamlet of the causeway*. I do not know this word. **Tàchar** is *a fight*, or *battle*, in the older language, and **tàcharan** is *a ghost*, from which latter the name could come easily (*note*).

**Tackmal** has been rendered **an t-hauk-ar** + **hólm-r**, but this is clearly impossible. The first elements are right, but the **-mal** cannot come from **hólm-r**, either by language or circumstance. It is the very common Gaelic rendering of N. **fjall**, *a fell*, or *hill*.

**Tornabakin** = **Tòrr nam bacan**, *the Torr (hill) of the banks*.

**Torra** is a variant of **Tòrr**, as **Torradu**, *the black Torr*, and dim., **Torrandu**, show. The word **torra** does not contain **á**, *a river*. It is simply the river which flows by Torra, as lower down it is called Duich-River, where it flows by Duich.

**Uraraidh** (Beinn) = **ùr**, *new*, + **àiridh**, *the new shieling*.

V. There are a number of Church-names in this large district. Killarow belongs to it = **Cill Mhaol-Rubha**, **Cill Brìghde** ; Kilcalum-Kill = **Cill Chaluim-chille** (p. 166) and **Àiridh Mhaol Chaluim** = the *àiridh* of Columba, *the tonsured one* ; **Cill Chattain** (p. 175), **Cill Chòmghain** (p. 178), **Cill Chùbain** (p. 160), **Cill Daltain** = *the Church of the fosterling*, from *dalta*, *a fosterling*, + dim., -ain ; **Sloc Mhaol Doraidd** (p. 185), Kileanain = **Adhamhnan** (p. 179), **Cill Lasrach** (p. 173), and **Cill (Sh)eathain-iochdrach** and **uachdrach**, *lower and upper*.

VI. MacArthur's Head, **Tobar Stevenson**, **Tobar Charastina** (*Christina*) **Chaimbeul**, Carmichael's Rocks, **Druim Claiginn Mhìcheil**, and **Maol** (N. *mul-r*) **Àiridh O'Dhuinn**, with **Càrn Chonnachain**, are the Personal names.

## THE CHURCH-NAMES

CHURCH-NAMES are more numerous in Argyll than in any other part of Scotland. The reason will be seen in this chapter.

There are several secularly named *Kils*, like Kilniver = **Cill an inbhir**, Kilchurn = **Cill a' chùirn**, Kilmany = **Cill mheadhonach**, Kilmelfort (p. 57), Kilearnadail, J., Kilcreggan = **Cill a' chreagain**, **Cill-mhór**, **Cill-bheag**, **Cill an àilean**, and others.

*Kils* called upon Scripture names and familiar names I only just mention—Kilchriost, Kilmichael, Kildavy, Kilsheathain (John), Kilmory (Mary), Kilpheadar = **Cill Pheadair** (Peter) Kilpatrick (d. 490), Kilbride (d. 525), Kil-Donald, are comparatively numerous all over the country. They need no explanation.

I cannot fix **Cill-Eallagain**, I., upon any of the recognised saints. There is no saint in the *Kal.* that explains the name. It may be that of Colman-Ella (p. 169), which quite correctly might come into the name as him of Ella, the **Ella-ag-an**—*the little one* (the affectionate form) *from Laind-Ella*. I am disposed to think that this is correct. The same may be said of **Kilslevan**, I. Both may be *secular* Kils; their Saints are certainly wanting, and the names are easily explained from other ways.

**Cill-Chùbain**, I., also, I cannot explain from the



*Kalendars.* It seems to come from **cùb**, *bend, confess*, which is not inappropriate to a church. I cannot find a St. Cùban.

The basis of the Columban Church, which gave us all our Church-names of Argyll, was the monastic system, which came to Rome from Egypt by Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, when he sought refuge there, about the middle of the fourth century, from persecution by the Arians, who denied the essential divinity of Christ. From Italy the system came into Gaul, and it was established at Ligugé, "the most ancient monastery in Europe," by MARTIN in A.D. 361. Martin was a native of Pannonia in Lower Hungary. He was for several years a soldier before his conversion. The bishopric of Tours was conferred upon him, as is said, against his will, about A.D. 370, after which, in order to withdraw himself from the world, he founded *Majus Monasterium*, the later Marmoutier, which became the great centre of monastic life in Gaul. He died A.D. 397. Legend has it that Conchessa, the mother of St. Patrick, was Martin's niece, but there is reason to believe that this is not correct. Martin is in the *Kalendar*, under 11th November :—

**Sanct Martain saer samail  
sliab oir iarthair domain.**

—*Saint Martin—noble simile—the mount of gold of the West of the world.* His great ordination as Bishop of Tours is under 4th July, **dagordan mor Martain marosellaib seimle** — *Martin's good great ordination; you have not seen its like.* His "translation" is under 4th June, and a feast in his honour at Rome under 20th April: **feil iruaim; noem neorpa uile**—*the feast at Rome; of the*

*Saint of all Europe.* He was the first Saint to whom the Roman Church offered worship.

We have his name remaining in the Parish of Kil-Martin, and in the Scottish "Term" *Martin-mas*, an **fhéill-Martain**—11th November—to this day.

NINIAN may almost be said to have been a disciple of Martin. In early life he went to Rome, where "he was trained in the faith and in the mysteries of truth," as Bede has it. On his way back, he visited Martin at Tours, and stayed with him some time. When he left for home he brought with him, from Martin, masons for the purpose of building a church. This was the monastery of "Leucopibia," "Candida Casa," "Futerna," "Whithern," or modern Whithorn, in Wigton. It was also called "Magnum Monasterium," and the monastery of Rosnat, and the "house of Martin," because it was dedicated to the Bishop of Tours. There can be no doubt that this "White-house" of Martin was a great centre of piety and culture. It was here that Finan of Moville (**magh-bile**) was taught—a fact that should be kept in mind, for he was one of the teachers of Columcille.

Here at Whithorn, "Ninian and many other Saints rest in the body" (Bede). He was of the Britons of Strathclyde. His father was Sarran, King of Britons, and his mother was Bobona, daughter of Loarn (son of Erc), one of the founders of the Dalriadic race and kingdom in Argyll. His death is placed A.D. 432. There was another Nennidius, "de partibus Mula," and from him the parish of Kilninian, in North Mull, takes its name, and a Nin(d)idh was one of the twelve apostles of Ireland. It is almost certain that these two names are for one and the same person, namely, Ninnidh of Innis-macsaint in Lough Erne.

FÌNAN, or FINNIAN, of Moville was sent as a boy to St. Coelan of Noendrum (*Nine Backs*), who placed him under the care of "the most holy Bishop Nennio" (Ninnian, of Candida Casa), who took him to his own "Magnum Monasterium," and by him (Nennio) he was trained for several years in the monastic life. After completing the time of his instruction he went back to Ireland and established the monastery of Moville, near Newtonards, in County Down, with which his name is so famously associated. It was to him, at Moville, that Colum-Cille was first sent for instruction. Columba remained there until he was ordained Deacon, after which he left to go under another Finan at the monastery of Clonard.

He seems to have been known as Findbarr also. In the *Kalendar*, under 10th December, he is commemorated:—

Cli dergoir conglaine  
corriacht tarsal side  
sui dianerin inmall  
Findbarr muigebile.

—*A body of red gold with purity, over a sea came he, a sage for which Ireland was sad, Findbarr of Movile.* According to a marginal note in *L. B.* the explanation is given—**Findbarr .i. folt find bui fair .i. finden**, that is, *Findbarr for white (or fair) hair was on him, that is, Finden = fair-one.*

FINIAN of Clonard was of the Irish Picts. Up to his thirtieth year he was taught in Ireland, but then he crossed into Wales to Kilmuine—the old name for St. David's, and without doubt the same in origin as Kilmun in Argyll—where he placed himself under "the three

holy men, David and Gillas and Docus the Britons"—that is, Bishop David, Gildas the historian, and St. Madoc, who founded the monastery of Llancarvan, in South Wales. On his return to Ireland after many years at St. David's, he founded the great monastery of Cluain-Erard—Clonard, in County Meath—from which so many thousands went forth to teach and to preach, and from which went forth especially "the twelve apostles of Ireland," whose names are so frequent and familiar in the West of Scotland. The apostles were, according to Skene :—

1. CIARAN of Saighir.
2. CIARAN Mac-an t-saoir.
3. COLUMBA mac Crimthain.
4. COLUM-CILLE.
5. MOBHI Clarenach.
6. BRENDAN of Birr.
7. BRENDAN of Clonfert.
8. LAISREN or Molaise of Devenish.
9. RUADHAN of Lothra.
10. SENELL of Cluain-innis.
11. NINNIDH of Innis-mac-saint.
12. CAINEACH of Achabo.

The *Leabhar Breac*, however, gives them as follows :—

## XII. APOSTOLI HIBERNIAE

dafinen dacholum chaid  
 ciaran caindeach comgall cain  
 dabrenaind ruadan colli  
 nindid mobi mac natfraich

—*Two Finans, two chaste Columbs, Ciaran, Kenneth, fair Comgall, two Brennans, Ruadhan with splendour, Nindidh*

(and) *Mobi, son of Natfraich*. It will be observed that we have in this statement two Finans and a Comgall not included in Skene's, and further that we have only one Ciaran and no Molaise and no Senell. We have no memorial of Mobhi or of Ruadhan or of Senell in the place-names, but we have Finan and Comgall and Molaise—and Colum, Ciaran, Brennan, Caineach are numerous in the whole West of Scotland.

This Finan is in the *Kalendar*, under 12th December :

**Tor oir uas cech lermuir  
gebaid coir frimanmain  
findia find frem inmain  
cluana iraird adbail**

—*A tower of gold over every ocean sea, he will give a hand to my soul, Findia the Fair, lovable root of vast Clonard.* We have his name in Killundine = Cill-Fhionntain, V., and in Kilmunn, C., and in other places (see p. 53). The *Kal.*, 21st October, derives Mundu thus, **mundu** = **mufhindu** i. **fintan**, the essential being that the initial **f** is aspirated out, which is not only probable but even necessary — and still one doubts the rendering. If Fintan, who was Munnu *prius*, or **artús**, went to David in Wales as a pupil at Kilmunnu, there must have been “an intelligent anticipation” of his coming to have the Cill named upon him. What is far more likely is that Kilmunnu was the name of the Welsh monastery before he went there, and that he on founding his church in Cowal did—as all men do—remember and recall his old intellectual home. I am afraid, therefore, and for other reasons, that the philology of the *Kal.* must on this point be rejected.

There was another famous FINAN, sent from Iona to

succeed Bishop Aidan at Lindisfarne to take charge of the Church in Northumbria, A.D. 651. He died A.D. 660. *Obitus Finain mac Rimeda* (660—*Tigh.*). There are several other Finans, Finnians, and Fintans, of the old Church, so that it is not possible to be sure upon which of them a Kil- may be named.

MOBHI, Clarenach as he was called, although he does not come into Argyll names, is an interesting link, because after leaving Clonard, where he was taught under Finnian, he founded the monastery of Glas-naoidhen (Glasnevin, County Dublin), where he was joined later by Colum-Cille, who also came from Clonard, and had been Mobhi's fellow-student there. It was here, at Glasnevin, that Colum-Cille met Comgall of Bangor, who was one of "the twelve." Mobhi's death is put as having occurred A.D. 546. He is in the *Kalendar* under 12th October :—

**Mobii balcc inbuaidsin  
inclarenach cainsin**

—*Mobhi strong in that victory, that flat-faced fair one.* There is a long note in the *Leabhar Breac* explaining his descent and birth. It says: **Berchan ainm Mobi ocus Beoan ainm a athar ocus Uainind ainm amathar** —*Berchan was Mobi's (other) name, B. the name of his father, and U. the name of his mother.* He is said to have died from the Great Plague, called *Buidhe Chonaill*, which swept over Erin in this time. To the Plague is also attributed the break up of the Glasnevin Monastery.

COLUM-CILLE, or St. Columba, son of Feidhlimidh, son of Fergus, son of Conal Gulban, son of Niall Naoigiallach, "Neil of the Nine Hostages"—monarch

of Erinn, A.D. 346-379—was born at Gartan, in Donegal, on 7th December A.D. 521, according to data supplied by Adamnan in his *Life*, but according to O'Curry he was born, "as we know from other sources," A.D. 515. His mother was Eithne, daughter of Dima, son of Noe, son of Etinne, son of Cairpre the poet, son of Ailill the great, son of Breccan, son of Fiach, son of Daire Barrach, son of Cathair the great. And Cumine, Minchloth, and Sinech were Colum-Cille's three sisters—*Kal.*, 7th June, *n.* When he attained a proper age he became a pupil of Finnian, or Findbarr, of Moville, where he remained till he was ordained Deacon. Then for some time he was under one Gemman, a poet, after which he went to Clonard under the other Finnian, where he finished his training.

He was with Mobhi at Clonard, and joined him afterwards at Glasnevin, and it was here that he met Ciaran, and Caineach, and Comgall who was afterwards founder of the great monastery of Ben-chor—the present Bangor—in County Down. Columba remained at Glasnevin till he was twenty-five years of age.

While Columba was at Clonard the Abbot Finnian wanted to have him as domestic bishop, and he sent him to Eichen, bishop of the monastery of Clonfad—in Cluain Fota Boetain—in Meath, to have the orders of a bishop conferred upon him; but Eichen by mistake or for some reason bestowed the orders of a priest only, which Columba said he would not change so long as he should be alive, but that he was not too well pleased is shown by what he said: "No one shall ever again come to this church to have orders conferred upon him"—*ocus is ed on chomailter beos*, says the Note, *and it is this that is still fulfilled.*

After the death of Mobhi, we are told that Columba founded many churches—three hundred, it is said—of which Kells, Derry, Raphoe, Swords, and Durrow have been the most famous.

In A.D. 563 “the Saint with twelve fellow-soldiers sailed across to Britain.” He came to King Conall of Dalriada, or Argyll, son of Comhgall, brother and successor of Gabhran, who was killed in battle with the Picts A.D. 560. He was given the Island of Iona by Conall. We have **bass Conaill mic Comgaill ri Dalriata xiii. anno regni sui qui offeravit insulam Ia Colaimcille** (A.D. 574—*Tigh*), *the death of C., son of C., King of Dalriada (in the thirteenth year of his reign), who made an offering of Iona to Colum-Cille.* Montalembert, in his great history of *The Monks of the West*, says that Columba ordained and gave his benediction to Conall, and that the event happened in Iona “on a great stone called the Stone of Destiny.” This stone was removed to Dunstaffnage, then to Scone, and finally to Westminster, where it now is, supporting the Coronation Chair. Some have cast doubt upon the history of the stone. Even Shakespeare was jealous of it :—

“A base foul stone made precious by the foil  
Of England’s chair, where he is falsely set.”

*Rich. III., v. 3.*

“He” is there, however, with his big tradition, which some thoughtful people consider to be far more reliable than that of “Shakespeare.” The history of Columba’s life and work from this point belongs to general history.

**COLUMBA mac Crithmain** was a native of Leinster, and he founded the monastery of **Tir-da-ghlais** in A.D. 548. He is in the *Kalendar*, under 13th December :



**colam trednach tire**—*C., the abstinent of Tir- (da-ghlais);* and the note in Laud MS. is .i. **Colum mac Crimthan otirdaglas isinmumain**, *that is, C., son of C., from Tir-daghlais in (the) Munster.* It seems quite impossible to know if this Columba came into Argyll names, but it may be observed that we have Macrimmons in the west to the present day. There are over thirty Colmans, Colmocs, and Columes (all the same name), in the *Kalendar*, and several of them are without doubt associated with the west of Scotland, but it is quite impossible to say which name, from among so many remains. Dr. George Stokes, in his *Celtic Church*, says of Colum-Cille that “he was baptized at Temple-Douglas, (**Telach-dubhglaisse in Tir Lugdach in Cinell Conaill**—*Kal.*, 9th June, *n.*), where he received the twofold and opposed names of **Crimthann**, *a wolf*, and **Colum**, *a dove*.” The *Kal.*, under same Note of 9th June, has **Crimthan ainm Colum-Cille prius**—*Cr. was name of C.C. previously.* All this suggests an overlapping of the two names.

COLMAN - ELLA. — This is another Colum, in the diminutive form. His Kil- is in South Knapdale, and his name is in the *Kalendar* on 26th September :—

**colman olaind ela**  
**lahuaigi ailt legend**  
**conid he an hualann**  
**ioin mar macc nerend**

—*C. of Laind-Ela, with perfections of high readings, so that he is splendid, praiseworthy, the great John of Ireland's sons.* The parish is locally called Sgìre nan Calaman gheala, *the parish of the white doves*, and this has been taken to be the origin of the name. The native rendering is always of value, but this is a good example of the

need of keeping an intelligent eye upon it. There is more imagination than philology grown locally—and perhaps that is well. This is “the birthplace of Malcolm O’Neill,” according to the *Statistical Account*, another gem. To use a name without some feeling of its meaning is abidingly unsatisfactory. There is always a seeking after a meaning, and rather than have no meaning, a wrong one is preferred—and is preferable, of course. The Note in *L. B.* is not quite certain as to the origin of the word *Ela*. It has—*ela nomen mulieris quae ibi ante colman habitabat*, and *ela proprium nomen amnis proximantis ecclesiae*. **Laind** is the same as the Welsh **Llan**-; it meant in origin an inclosed *area*, later *a house*, and then, as in Wales, *a church*. Pope Innocent IV., in 1247, confirmed certain lands to the Rector of St. Calmonel, situated near the Castle of Schepehinche, in Kintyre.

**CIARAN** (*the dusky one*). There were two famous Ciarans of the old Church, Ciaran of Clonmacnois, and Ciaran of Saighir—the two mentioned in Skene’s statement, without doubt. **CIARAN** of Clonmacnois was the son of a carpenter, hence he was known also as “Ciaran mac an t-saoir.” His father was from Ulster, but he removed to Magh Ai, a plain forming part of the present County Roscommon, where Ciaran was born A.D. 516. He was educated under Finan at Clonard. He founded, A.D. 548, Cluain-mic-nois in the reign of Diarmad, son of Fergus Cerrbeoil, and with his assistance. He founded many other churches also. His death, which is fabled to have been brought about by the prayers of the other saints of Ireland, who were envious of his fame, is said to have taken place at the age of thirty-three on 9th September A.D. 549 (C. 48), but O’Curry says he was alive “about 580.”

There is no suggestion in the facts of his life, given in Irish records, to show whether he, or his namesake of Saighir, gave us our western names.

CIARAN of Saighir, so called because he was founder of the monastery of that name — now Seirkieran = **Saighir-Chiarain**, in King's County, about four miles from Birr. In the *Kal.*, under 5th March, there is a long statement regarding him. He is mac Lugna, and his mother's name was Liadaine. There is in the same place another statement of his parentage which the curious may refer to. A somewhat similar genesis is given to Finan Cam, *F. the squinting*, under 7th April.

We have **Cil - Chiarain** (Kilkerran) in Campbeltown as in Carrick on the other side of the Sound of Kilbrannan (**Cil-Bhrandain**, his friend), and elsewhere.

RUADHAN and SENELL do not come into the Argyll names.

CAINNEACH'S (*the fair one*) name is frequent. He, like Ciaran, was of the Irish Picts. Columba met him at Glasnevin. He founded Kil-rì-monaiddh (now St. Andrews), in Fife. He is commemorated in *Kal.*, 11th October: **Caindeach mac huidaland .i. mac daed alaind he ocus achadbo a primchell ocus ata recles do hicill rigmonaig in albain**—*C., descendant of Dàlann . . . and Achabo was his chief church, and he has a cell in Kilrimonaiddh in Scotland.* He is said, with Comgall of Benchor, to have accompanied Columba on his mission to King Brude at Inverness; and as we know the mission worked round the coast of Moray and Aberdeen, it can be readily understood how his name remains in Fife. It is in Mull also, and in Iona, Tiree, Kintyre, &c.

Cainneach was a close friend of Brannan and of BAIRRE, whose name remains in Kilberry :—

Aentu choinnig is barrai  
ocus brenaind diblinaib  
cipe saraiges nech dib  
fertai intrir ocadigail

—*The unity of Cainneach and Bairre and Brannan, both one and other, whoever outrages any one of them the powers of the three (will be) avenging him.* Bairre was of the seed of Brian, son of Echad Muidmedon, **do sil briain mic echach muidmedon do barri**—*Kal.*, 25th September, *n.*, on which day is the festival of “the loving man,” **Bairre o chorcaig**, for he was a native of Cork.

MOLUOC—**molua** (meaning *a kick*, .i. **preab**, O’Cl.)—LUOC—LUGIDUS—LUANUS, was from the great monastery of Bangor, and he is said to have founded many churches in Ireland and in Scotland. The various forms of the name have a simple explanation. The last two are an attempt to put the name in some sort of Latin form, because people must have Latin names, for Saints especially. The root, however, of the name is **Lua**, and **Luoc** is *little Lua*, and **Moluoc** is *my little Lua*—all terms of affection, and a form that was very common in the old church; for example, **mo-cholm-oc**, **mo-chell-oc**, **mo-chorm-ac**, **mo-ern-ac**, **ma-ron-ag**, &c. The church of Lismore was founded by him, and his name still remains there in Kilmaluag and in Portmaluag on the east side of the island. He is in the *Kalendar*, under 25th June :—

lam luoc glan geldai  
grian liss moir dealbai

—*With my Luoe pure and fair sun of Lismore of Alba.* He

is said to have been one of the finest men who ever went forth from Benchor. His record, at anyrate in one detail, is extremely beautiful. "*A little bird was seen awailing and lamenting (en mbec occai ocus ocdogra) because Molua mac-Ocha was dead. And therefore it is that the living creatures bewail him for he never killed a living creature whether small or great—Kal., 31st January.* Luac was the son of **Carthach rigda**, royal Carthach, descendant of the King of Munster, who was a pupil of Ciaran of Saighir. **Obitus Lugdach Lissmoir .i. Moluoc**, A.D. 592.—*Tigh.*

LAISREN, or Molaise, named "of **Damh-innis**" (Devenish), in Lough Erne, one of "the twelve," was third abbot of Iona—or at anyrate one of the name was (for there seems to have been several of them in the early Church), A.D. 600–605. Laisren was first cousin to Colum-Cille. The root in the name is **lasair**, a flame, and with keen evangelists it might almost be a general name. In the time of Diarmad, monarch of Erinn, Colum-Cille, who was great-grandson of Conal Gulban, son of "Niall of the Nine Hostages," and therefore of the race of the great Clann Domhnaill, fell out with King Diarmad (see O'Curry, 327 *et seq.*), and with the assistance of these his powerful relatives, and with the assistance of the men of **Tir-Eoghain** (Tyrone), his cousins, he gave battle to and defeated Diarmad with great loss at Cuil Dreimne, near Sligo. The monarch returned to Tara discomfited; but soon afterwards he made his peace with Columba. The Saint, however, was troubled in conscience because of the bloodshed he had caused, so he went for penitential confession to Molaise, whose penance was that Colum should leave Erinn forthwith and never again return. Upon this Columba left for Scotland, and the great history of Iona follows.

There is a very interesting Note in *Kal.*, 9th December, regarding Ciaran of Clonfert, "**Ciaran Chluana**," as follows:—**Teora comairli din ismessa daronad inerinn triachomairlib noem .i. timdibe saegail Ciarain, ocus Colum Cille do indarbud ocus mochudai dochur araithin**—*Now these are the three worst advices that have been acted on in Ireland through the counsels of the Saints, namely, the cutting short of Ciaran's life, and the banishment of Columba, and the expulsion of Mochuda from Raithin.* We have seen the reason for the first of these statements; the second is now clear. I do not know the circumstances attending the third. Mochuda died A.D. 636. However rightly and justly the commentator may have expressed his mind, regarding Columba especially, we are thankful to believe that the world is greatly richer and better by his "banishment."

**MAELRUBHA** (**mael** + **rubha**, *cutting*, but for what reason I cannot say), whose name is met in Islay and Kintyre and in other parts of Scotland, was son of Subthan, daughter of Sètna, and sister of Comghall of Benchor, who was of the Cinel Eoghain. It was about A.D. 671, during the abbacy of Failbhe in Iona, that Maelruba came from Bangor (Down) into the west of Scotland, and two years later he founded the church of Appercrossan—now Applecross—in Wester Ross. The Annals of Tighernac has—673, **M. fundavit ecclesiam apercrossan**; and he evangelised through the whole neighbourhood all his lifetime. He is in the *Kalendar*, under 21st April: **inalpain conglaine iarlecud cechsuba luid uainn conamathair armbrathair maelruba**—*in Scotland with purity after leaving every happiness, went from us with his mother, Maelruba.*

His *Kils* are numerous, and they have gone through

very peculiar but very interesting changes of form. **Cil-mhael-rubha** appears in old documents variously as Kilmolrow, Kilmorrow, Kilmarrow, Kilmharrow, Kilarrow, &c., all of which a Gaelic student will readily understand. Though in Islay the name has lost every trace of its spoken origin, in Kintyre the essential is still preserved in the local pronunciation—it is Kil-a-roo, with the accent on the last syllable. According to the *Origines Par. Scot.*, Kilmarrow was the church of St. Mary!

CATHAN, or CATTAN (*little cat*), was of the Irish Picts, and the friend of Comgall and Cainneach. He was the founder of the monastery of Kingarth, Cinn-garad, or **Ceann a' ghàraidh**, in South Bute. His name does not appear in the *Kalendar*, though that of his nephew, BLAAN, son of King Aidan, does: **blaan cain chinn garad .i. dun blaen aprimchathair ocus ochinn garad do .i. hingall gaidelaib**—*Blaen of Kingarth in Dunblane is his chief city, and from Kingarth is he, i.e. in Galloway.* This is Stokes' translation, but it is in part wrong—in the rendering Galloway. The Gall-ghaidheil were all those Gaels of the south-west of Scotland and of the western isles who were under the rule or control of the Gall, or *stranger*—of Angles in the south, and of Scandinavians in the north and the Isles. The *Statistical Account* states that the remains of Blaen were visible at Kilblane (Southend, Kintyre) in 1843!

The two names occur frequently—Kil-chattan, Ardchattain—Kilblane, Dunblane, &c.

BRANNAN—BRANDAN—BREANNAN—BRENNAND (from **bran**, *a raven*, **bran .i. fiach**—C.), was one of the twelve apostles of Ireland. In his early days he was educated at Clonard. He afterwards spent seven years in search of the Land of Promise. Upon his return he went to

Gildas "in Britain." On leaving Gildas he is thought to have gone to the Western Isles of Scotland (about A.D. 545), in one of which he founded a monastery named **Aileach**, and in Tiree, "*in regione Heth*," a church. This Aileach is **Aileach an naoimh** of the Garveloch group of islands (p. 62), and in another of the same group is **Cùil-Bhrannain**, Cul-Brandon, or *B.'s Retreat*, to this day. His name remains in that the people of Bute are "the Brandanes," and further, in the Sound of Kilbrannan, which separates Arran and Ayr from Kintyre. This Brandan was he "of Clonfert," which he founded about A.D. 556. He is said to have visited Colum-Cille at Hinba, where Ernan, Colum-Cille's uncle presided: *Alio in tempore quatuor ad sanctam visitandum Columbam monasterium fundatores de Scotia transmeantes in Hinba eum invenerunt insula; quorum illustrium vocabula Comgellus Banger, Cainnechus Achabo, Brendenus Cluaind, Cormacus nepos Leathain* (Adamn.)—all of which may be good history, but is certainly not beautiful Latin. In the island of Seil, L., the church is dedicated to him. His death is put A.D. 577.

There were two distinguished Brannans—B. of Clonfert and B. of Birr; but it seems certain that the name of B. of **Cluain** is that which we have in our names. *Quies Brendain abbatis Cluain-ferta, die xvi, Maii aetatis sui, 94.—Tigh.*

BRANNAN of Birr was older by a few years than his namesake of Clonard. His death is put about A.D. 565 by the Annals.

ORAN—ODRAN—ODHRAN (from **odhar**, *dun*, + dim. **-an**, *the dun one*. Compare Ciaran, Finnan). "The dedication to Oran, or Odhran, in the islands connected with Dalriada probably belong to the earlier Dalriadic



Church. Besides the cemetery in Iona called Reilig Odhrain, he appears in Tiree, where there is a burial-ground called Cladh Odhrain, in Colonsay at Kiloran, and in Kiloran on the north bank of Loch-Sgridan. He was of the stock of the people of Dalriada, and his death is recorded on 2nd October A.D. 548."—*Sk.*, ii. 35. There is a tradition regarding him that "Columba said to his people it would be well for us that our roots should pass into the earth here. And he said to them, it is permitted to you that some one of you go under the earth of this island to consecrate it. Odhran arose quickly, and said, 'If you accept me I am ready for that.' Odhran then went to heaven. He founded the church of Hy (Iona) there."

DONNAN (from **donn**, *dun*, Lat. *fuscus*—as in Duncan, p. 37), is in *Kal.*, under 17th April, as **Dondan ega .i. ega ainm oilein fil inalpain ocus isannside ata donnan no icattaib et ibi donnan sanctus cum sua familia obiit .i. liv.**—*Donnan of Eigg, that is, Eigg is the name of an island which is in Albain, and there Donnan is, or in Sutherland (not Caithness), and there Saint D. died with his "family," namely, fifty-four (in number).* Kildonan, on the east side of Egg, was founded by him about 560. The Annals of Tighearnach give 617: *Combustio Donnain Ega hi xv. Kalendas mai cum clericis martiribus.* The history of this cruel "combustion" by the Norseman is easily available. The Norseman's work on the Western Isles was "thorough."

The *Kils* of Donnan are comparatively numerous—in Egg, Arran, Sutherland, Kintyre, &c.

CREATHAMHNAN, which gives Kilchrenain, was son of Cathair the Great of the Ui Cormaic—*Kal.*, 13th Dec., *n.*

COMMAN (mac Ernain, *son of E.*), was brother of

Cuimein, seventh abbot of Iona, A.D. 657-669. Comman is referred to in the *Kal.*, under 21st Nov., as **Coman ahairind airthir no aru ocus eri indathelaig toeb fritoeb**—*C., from eastern Arran; or the Arran and Erin are the two hills side by side.* His name remains in Kilchomain, I. Comman, upon which Roscommon (Ros Chommain) is named, seems to have been a different person. He is said to have lived for two hundred years, "**agus sgribtar air go raib sé dá chéd bliadan d'aois** (S. G. 478). I have wondered if the usual rendering of Kildalton, I., is correct. It is quite possible for **t** to have developed in the name of DALLAN, "son of Eogan, son of Niall the Nine-hostaged," and father of Laisren (p. 173)—the man who wrote the **Amhra** (*Elegy*) **Choluim - Chille**. The nearer meaning, however, is from **dalta**, *a church*, which was affiliated to the **Annait**, or parent church, of a monastery.

COMGAN, later **Comhghan**, on whom Kilchoan, A., and other churches are named. He is commemorated in *Kal.*, 13th July. About A.D. 673 he, with his sister KENTIGERNA, and her son FILLAN (**Faolan**, *little wolf*), came into the district of Loch-Alsh and began planting churches all along the west coast. The name of his nephew Fillan remains in Perthshire, St. Fillans in Glendochart, and Strathfillan (S. G., 310). The lands of the Glendochart monastery passed into lay hands, but the spiritual succession and the pastoral staff of St. Fillan remained with a certain Deòradh, or *pilgrim*, and his successors. There is a letter by King James in 1487, given in the *Black Book of Taymouth*, in which the king orders that "his servitour Malice Doire" having in his keeping "ane relik of Sanct Fulane called the quegrith," and ordering that all should "mak him nane impedi-

ment, letting, or distroublance, in the passing with the said relik throch the contre as he and his forbearis was wont to do." The "Coygerach," or Cuigreach, of St. Fillan—evidently the pilgrim's name transferred to the staff or crozier—was discovered and bought by the late Dr. Daniel Wilson, in Canada, and he gave it into the custody of the Scottish Antiquarian Society.

MOLUAG'S crozier was in the custody of a family of the name of Livingstone for generations, in the island of Lismore, the "làrach" of **Tigh nan deòra** being there still; and that of **Mael-rubha** (p. 174) was kept at **Bail' an deòra** in Muckairn. I am not able to say what came of the latter, but I have an interesting letter from the Duke of Argyll regarding the former (*note*).

ADAMNAN—Adhamhnán (*little Adam*) was ninth abbot of Iona. He was born in 624 in County Donegal, a descendant of Conall Gulban, and therefore of the same family as Colum-Cille, whose biography he wrote. He restored the monastery of Iona, and for the purpose he sent twelve ships to bring the necessary oak timber from Ardnamurchan and Morven. The record of this expedition, as given in the *Life*, becomes very interesting therefore. At the Synod of Tara, A.D. 690, he secured the freedom of women for ever from war service. Adamnan chanced on a certain day to be journeying through Mag Breg with his mother on his back. They saw two battalions smiting each other. It happened moreover that Ronait, Adamnan's mother, saw a woman with an iron sickle in her hand dragging another woman from the opposing battalion, and the sickle fastened to her breast—for at that time men and women alike used to be giving battle"—*Kal.*, Sept. 25, *n*. Ronait made her son promise that he should free women for ever "from

things of that kind"—which he did at the Council of Tara.

He visited England more than once, with the usual result. He got perverted. He turned away from his Columban Church and faith, taking on the Romish doctrine, which at the time was working strongly northward. His "family" of Iona was shattered by dissension and difference, and "the house" divided could not and did not stand, but fell very soon. *Adamnanus lxxvii. anno aetatis suae in nonas Kalendis Octobris, abbas Ie, pausat.*—*Tigh.*; S. G. says it was "the ninth of *Kal.* December." His *Kils* are numerous—usually written as **Kil-eunain**, the *d* of the name getting aspirated away, as the rule is when a consonant stands between two vowels.

It is interesting to observe how the kingdom of Dalriada and the Columban Church rose and fell together.

CONSTANTINE, in Kilchousland, K., and as Cowstin Cousland, &c., in other parts. It is difficult to follow the changes of the name—in fact, if the evidence did not appear so conclusive that this Constantine has somehow taken the form Cousland and somewhat similar other forms, I should be strongly disposed to doubt it. I perhaps doubt it now. The local **Cill-Chuisilein**, or, as the old charters have it, Kil-Quhitlawisland, seems to me impossible from a form Constantine. My feeling is that there must have been another name, which has got involved with that of Constantine, although I have not found any suggestive name in the *Kalendars*. The story of Constantine is that he was a Cornish prince, who upon his conversion abandoned his throne and became a monk under Mochuda at Rahen (near Tullamore, King's Co.), whence he passed into Scotland and

founded the church of Govan on the Clyde, from which he extended his labours into Kintyre, where his name remains. The Annals give, 588: *Conversio Constantini ad Dominum*. The *Kal.* has a note under 11th March: **C .i. rig bretan rofacaib arige ocus tainic diaoilthire coraithin inamsir mochuda . . . ocus rig alban he**—*C., a king of Britons, who left his kingdom and came for his pilgrimage to Rahen in the time of Mochuda . . . and a king of Scotland was he.* There is here again an overlapping of names and of circumstances. A Constantine and a king of Scotland did give up his kingdom, and retired to the monastery of St. Andrews, where he lived for ten years. His death is placed, 952: **Constantin MacAeda ri Albain moritur**.—*An. Ulst*; and the Pictish Chronicle gives his death *x. ejus anno sub corona penitenti*. It is almost certain, however, that the other Constantine was the effective man of Argyll and the West.

MOCHOE (and perhaps Mochua is the same name) was head of the great monastery of Noendruim, whence Finan came. It is not necessary to believe that he came personally into the Argyll tradition. It is more likely that one or some of his "disciples" gave the name—Kilmachoe, K.; Cilmachu, L.—to his master's memory and honour—in fact this is not unlikely the case with many of the Saint-names. He was trained at Lismore (on the Black Water, Co. Waterford), and he is in the *Kal.*, 23rd June: **mochoe .i. mochua luachra masue olissmor mochua**—*M., that is, Mochua of Luachair Massu from Lismore (was) Mochua.* He was also called Cronan. "Mochua mac lugdach qui prius Cronan dictus est."—*Kal.*, 6th Aug. There are several of the same name.

MOCHUMMAG is Cummine the seventh Abbot of Iona (A.D. 657–669). He wrote a Life of Columba, which

seems to have been freely drawn upon by Adamnan. It was in his time that the trouble arose in the church of Northumbria, which culminated in the Synod of Whitby and the disappearance of the missionaries of Iona from the north of England. A Colman was bishop at the time—in Northumbria. He is in *Kal.*, 24th Feb. : **abb hia an ergna cumine find fedba**—*an Abbot of I a fine intellect, C. the fair, aged.*

MO-RÒN-AG (from **ròn**, *a seal*, + **ag**) is in Kilmarònag, which occurs in Lorne and in the Lennox, and in other places. He was of the late stage of the Columban Church. His name appears in Iona in Teampull Rònain, Port Rònain, and Cladh Rònain. He was Abbot of **Cinn a' ghàraidh** (Kingarth—Bute) at his death given, 737 : **Bass Ronain abbatis Cindgaradh.**—*Tigh.* In *Kal.*, 9th Feb. : **Espoc ronain rigda .i. illiss mor mochuda ata**—*Bishop R., the royal, namely, in Lismore of Mochuda he is.* There was a Bishop Ronan of Scotland in the time of Adamnan and King Maelduin, the last fifty years of the seventh century, and even an earlier one—the grandson of Loarn—and others. It is therefore difficult to affix the name with certainty. The name occurs in Islay also, in Cill-Rònain.

FINDCHAN (from the same name-origin as Fintan), *the fair one*, leaves his name in Kilfinichain, M. He was one of Columba's monks, and he founded a monastery in Tiree, which Adamnan calls Artchain. He got into trouble with Columba because he improperly ordained one Aid, or Aed, "a son of perdition." This was Aedh Dubh, who got into disgrace at the Convention of Tailte, and was in consequence banished to Scotland by King Diarmid MacCearrbheoil. He went back to Ireland, and killed Diarmad (S. G. 76), who was a special

friend of St. Columba, which explains the "son of perdition." *Occisio Diarmato filii Cearbhuil regis Hiberniae*, A.D. 565. His history is not extensive, and he is not in the *Kalendar*.

CELLOC—Mo Chelloc, in Kilmochelloc, I. The name means simply the *Cell-man* (see Allt a' Cheallaich, V.). A Cellach was bishop of **Cill-rì-monaidh** (now St. Andrews) in the time of Constantine, son of Aedh. In 908 an Assembly was held at Scone, the king and Cellach being present, at which the Pictish and Scottish churches were united under Cellach as bishop. He was therefore "*in vulgari et communi locutione Escop Alban id est Episcopi Albaniae appellantur*" (C. P. S., 191)—the first bishop of the united Alban Church.

There was an earlier Cellach, abbot of Kildare, and also of Iona. "*Cellach mac Aillelo abbas Cilledaro et abbas Ia dormivit in regione Pictorum*"—*Ann. Ulst.*, A.D. 865. This most likely is the man whose name remains in the west. It was he who built the church of Kells, A.D. 807-814. *Cellach Abba Iae finita constructione templi Cenindsa reliquit principatum*.

COEMAN—Caomhan, in Kilkivan and St. Coivin, K. (from **coem**, mod. **caomh** + **an**, *the lovable one*). There are several in the *Kalendar*, but I am not able to make sure which of them may be here remembered. The name is not very specific. **Caomhan** may be applied to any *kindly, lovable* person, or even beast. It has evidently made an effort to harden here into a definite Personal name, but the effort has failed. A favourite cow is quite commonly called **caomh-ag**. I have heard a most lovable minister of my earliest memory constantly called **Caomhan**—and with good reason.

The same may be said of **Cill an naoimh** (Kilnave, I.).

It is only an indefinite term for *the* Saint—whoever he was.

SENCAN—Sean-ach-an (based upon **sean**, *old*), is remembered in Kilmahanachan, K. He was contemporary with Columba and Ciaran (O'C.). He was successor of Finnan at Clonard. In *Kal.*, 21st August, *n.*: **Escap senach .i. aite ailbe ocus comorbo finden ocus icluain fota fine iferaib tulach ata escop senach**—*Bishop S., tutor of Ailbe and successor of Finnan in Cluain . . . is Bishop S.*

MOLIBHA, which we have in Kilmalieu, V., is in *Kal.*, 18th February: **bebais incaid colman moliba noradi**—*the holy Colman died, Molibha mention him.*

EOGHAN, in Kilvickeun, M. = **Cill mhic Eòghain** (p. 113). Bleau in his map has Eugenius for this *Kil*. There are several Eoghans possible, but the most probable here is a son of Cainneach (p. 171). The feast of E. is in *Kal.*, 23rd August: **Feil eogain aird sraha**—*the feast of E. of Ardstrath.*

ERNOC (**erna cotis .i. lie .i. arneam frisimelatar erna**, *i.e. a stone, a whetstone, on which iron weapons are ground.*—C. 42) comes once into Argyll names, in Ard-marnoch = **Aird mo Ern-oc**. It is the same as in Kilmarnock. He is in *Kal.*, Nov. 12th: **Ernin mac find-chain abb lethglinde**—*E., the son of Findchan, abbot of Leighlin.* "Hic erat Erneneus filius Craseni postea per omnes Scotiae famosus et valde notissimus."—*Reeves' Col.* 25.

LASSAIR, literally *a flame*, seems to come into Cill-lasrach, I. The name has the same base as **Laisren** = **Lasair-ein**, but it is here clearly feminine. The only appropriate name is that of LASSAIR: "Nomen septimae filiae Branin"—*the seventh daughter of Brannan.* One



thing is very clear—the Columban Church was not celibate.

KILIRVAN I am not able to make sure of. It possibly may be named upon **Escuip Ibair**, *Kal.*, April 23rd : “*Son of Cucorb, son of Cairbre, son of Echach . . . and 353 years was the age of Bishop Ibar.*” I, however, doubt this.

MAOL-DORAIDH, whose name appears in Islay, “perhaps Mael-deòradh,” was ancestor of MAOL-RUAINIDH, who made a pilgrimage to Iona A.D. 1026, and remains familiarly in Gaelic tradition. If he is the same, his acquaintance can be made in *S. G.*, p. 50, *et seq.* There is indeed a very big atmosphere of our early history in the “Gràdhach’s” excellent work.

There are several CRONANS in the *Kal.* We have seen (p. 181) that “Mochua . . . prius Cronan dictus est.” **Cronan caid cendigna .i. hiross glaise no cumad he Mochua** (*Kal.*, Feb. 10th) — *the chaste C. without reproach, i.e. in Ross-Glaise, or he may be Mochua.* Again, April 28th : “Cronan quibus mochua dictus me.” So we may fairly take that the two names cannot be safely separated.

In **Goirtein Mhoirein**, S., the name is ST. MURREN, a woman saint, with name derived from **muirgen**, *sea-begotten, a mermaid.* “*She was thirty years in Lough Neagh, and Comghall’s fisherman, Broan, caught her in his net, and Comghall baptised her*” (*Kal.* ccxcvi.). “Half of her was a salmon, and the other half a woman.” She was one of the **mur-dhùchan** to which Ardnamurchan owes its name ! (p. 90)

## THE GAELIC ELEMENTS IN NAMES

IN order to save space, I here give in Vocabulary form, all the Gaelic elements that enter into the names of the County. This means that one word in the Vocabulary may, as in some cases, explain hundreds of names. I only give a few examples under each word—just sufficient to show the application and usage—and I have chosen, under each head, such names as I thought would best show the general meaning. The names are mostly made up of two parts—the simple nominative, with an attributive in the form of an adjective or a genitive—so I have given the genitives, Singular and Plural, for all words where I have thought it would be useful to do so. Therefore, in any name made up of two parts, the meaning may be easily found by reference to the elements in the Vocabulary, *e.g.* **Bàrr-daraich**, see **bàrr** and **darach**; **Gartlosgainn**, see **gart** and **losgann**, and so with others.

**abhainn**, *a river*, **abhann** and **aibhne**; **aibhnichean**—Bun na h-abhann, *A.I.* Inbher na h-aibhne, *M.P.*

**acarsaid** (*N.*), *an anchorage*—an Acarsaid, *A.* Rudha na h-acarsaid, *J.* an Acarsaid mhór, *M.*

**achadh**, *a field*, **-aidh**; **-adh**—Achadh na h-àth, *C.* Dubh-achadh, *I.*, and freq.

**achlas**, *the arm-pit*, **-aise**; **-as**—Doire na h-achlaise, *J.*

**adag**, *a shock of corn*, **-aige**; **-an**—na h-Adagan, *I.*

**adharc**, a horn, **-airce** ; **-ean**, whence **adharc***an*, the lapwing, the "horned one"—Cnoc adhaircean, *A.R.*

**adhlaic**, burial, **-aidh**—Creag an adhlaic, *C.*

**agh**, a hind, heifer, **aighe** ; **aighean**—Tor nan aighean, *C.L.*  
Cnoc nan agh. Agh-choire, *V.*

**àilean**, a green sward, **-ein**—Barr an àilein, *P.*

**àilidh**, beautiful—Lagan àilidh, *L.*

**aingear**, an angel (2), light, fire, **-il** ; **-ean**—Cnoc aingil, *I.*

**àird**, a height, **àirde** ; **àirdean** (*ard*, high)—Àird a' mhadaidh, *L.*  
Àrd-airidh, *S.* Sàilean na-h-àirde.

**airgiod**, silver, **-id**—Lagan an airgid, *L.*

**àiridh**, a shieling, hill-pasture—Airidh Ualainn, *G.* Airidh Eogain, *L.* Clach àiridh, *I.* a' Bhog àiridh, *M.*

**àirneag**, a sloe, **-eige**—Dun àirneige, *L.*

**aiseag**, a ferry, **-ig**—Camus aisig, *G.* Rudha an aisig, *V.*

**aitionn**, juniper.

**Albannach**, a "Scot"—Stob an Albannaich, *P.* Sròn Albannach, *K.*

**allaidh**, fierce—Port allaidh (Gigha).

**allt**, a stream, **uillt**—Tigh an uillt, *P.* Bràigh nan allt, *A.* Leth allt, *P.*

**àluinn**, lovely—Loch-àluinn, *V.* Tòrr àluinn, *C.*

**amar**, a channel, **-air** (see p. 10)—Eas an amair, *L.*

**amas**, aim, **-ais**—Càrn an amais, *M.*

**ambach**, a neck, **-aich**—Loch Avich = Amhaich, *L.*

**anam**, the soul—Loch an anama, *K.R.*

**annaid** (see p. 58)—an Annaid, *E.* Cladh na h-annaide, *L.*  
Achadh na h-annaide, *P.*

**aodann**, a face, **-ainn**—Aodann àluinn, *S.* Torr aodainn, *M.*  
Meall an aodainn, *P.*

**aoibhinn**, joyful, pleasant.

**aoigh**, a guest.

**aoineadh** (see p. 12)—an t-Aoineadh, *V.* Aoineadh Mhàrtainn, *M.* Aoineadh dubh, *J.* Creag an aoinidh, *L.*

**aoirean**, the pl. Gaelic form of Norse, **eyr-r** freq.

**aol**, lime, **-aoil**—Creag aoil. Barran an aoil, *L.*

**aom**, incline—Port an aomaidh, *K.*

**aonach**, a *high ground* (see p. 12)—an t-Aonach, *K.* Aonach mór and beag, *V.*

**apper**, *M.*, is *eabar*, *mud*.

**arbhar**, *corn*, -air—Lùb an arbhair, *V.* Meall an arbhair. *Col.*

**àrd**, *high*, and **àird**, a *height* (see p. 10).

**àros** (*N.*) *river-mouth*, but there is Gaelic **àros**, a *dwelling*.

**astail**, or **fasdail**, is a *dwelling*. The *f* has come into the Gaelic word, as in other words, such as **eagal**, **feagal**, *fear*; **eudail**, **feudail**, *cattle*, &c.—but it is aspirated out after the Article, and disappears.

**àth**, a *kiln*—Achadh na h-àth, *M.* Lag na h-àtha, *P.* Glac na h-àtha, *J.*

**àth**, a *ford*. Local knowledge alone can distinguish between this and the previous word.

**athach**, a *giant*—aich—Poll-athach, *M.*

**athais**, is *rest* = Lat. *re-sto*.

**athlach**, is a *hero*, a *young man fit for battle*; **ath-laoch**, *H.S.D.* —Port nan athlach, *L.*

**bà**, a *cow*—Leac nam bà, Loch-bà, *M.* Ach' na bà, *L.*

**bac**, a *bank*, **baic**—Cùl a' bhaic, *L.* Bacan daraich, *S.*

**bacach**, a *lame man*, -aich—Suidh' a' bhacaich, *K.*

**bachlag**, the *curling shoot of a potato*, *I.* (p. 145).

**bad**, a *thicket*, *cluster*; dim., **badag** and **badan**—Bad, *C.* na Badan, *L.* Rudh' a' bhad bhuidhe, *P.*

**bàgh**, a *bay*—Bàgh bàn, Bàgh na cille, *L.* Bàgh buidhe, *C.* Bàgh seann-ghairt, *K.*

**baile**, a *town*, *farm*, **bailtean**—Bail' ùr, *K.* Baile fraoich, Baile meadhonach, *M.*

**bàillidh**, a *bailie*—Cruach a' bhàillidh, *K.*

**bainne**, *milk*—Lag a' bhainne, *L.* Lochan a' bhainne, *S.*

**bain-tighearna**, a *lady*, *lord-wife*—Camus na bain-tighearna, *K.*

**bàite**, *drowned*—Dail bhàite, *M.*

**balach**, a *lad*, *clown*, -aich; -ach—Loch a' bhalaich, *J.*

**balbhan**, a *dumb one*, -ain; -an—Càrn a' bhalbhain, *A.*

**balg**, a *bag*, *belly*, **builg**; **balg**—Càrn a' bhuilg, *C.* Raon a' bhuilg, *I.*

- balgair**, a fox; -ean—Beinn bhalgairean, *R.*  
**balla**, a wall—Barr a' bhalla, *K.*  
**bàn**, white—Tigh-bàn, Eileanan bàna, *M.* Srath bàn, *K.* Bagh-bàn, *L.* Carn bàn, *C.* Beinn bhàn, *V.*  
**banais**, a wedding, bainnse—Doire na bainnse, *V.*  
**barail**, a barrel, -e; -ean—Cnoc a' bharaille, *K.*  
**bàrd**, a poet, bàird—Dùn a' bhàird, *M.*  
**bàrr** (*G.*), top, high ground, barra—am Bàrr, *V.* Bàrr daraich, *K.* am Barran, *L.*  
**barrach**, the top branches of trees, -aich.  
**bata**, a walking-stick—Bataichean bàna, *I.*  
**bàta**, a boat—Port a' bhàta, *V.*  
**bàthaich**, = bà + tigh, cow-house, byre—Bàthaich bàn, *C.* Gart a' bhàthaich, *K.*  
**beag**, small—Loch beag, *L.*  
**bealach**, a mountain pass, -aich; -ach—Bealach, *P.* Tigh a' bhealaich, Bealach na mòna, *K.*  
**bealaidh**, broom—Bealanach, *K.*  
**bean**, a wife, mnà; mnathan and ban—Loch nam ban, *L.K.* Stoc and Port nam ban, *M.* Dun na bean òige, *P.*  
**beàrna**, a notch, cleft, -an; *Adj.* beàrnach—Coire beàrnach, Lòna beàrnach, *M.* Bernice! *C.*  
**beathach**, an animal, -aich—Eilean nam beathach, *L.*  
**beinn**, hill, ben, beinne; beann—a' Bheinn mhór, *M.L.*  
**beithe**, birch, whence beitheach, a birchwood—Beitheach, *M.C.* Bàr beithe, *K.* Aird bheithe, *A.* Sròn beithe, *J.*  
**beithir**, a serpent, monster, beathrach—Gleann na beathrach, *P.* Beinn nam beathrach, *V.* Cruach a' bhearrache, *R.*  
**beul**, a mouth, beoil—Beul na h-uamha, *L.* Port a' bheòil, *M.*  
**bian**, a skin, hide, beine; bian—Bidein nam bian, *P.*  
**biast**, a beast, béiste; biast—Loch na béiste, Allt na béiste, *K.S.* Airidh nam biast, *I.*  
**biathainn**, a worm, -e—Rudha nam biathainn, *M.*  
**bile**, a border, cluster of trees—Cladh a' bhile, *K.* Loch na bile, *J.*  
**binnein**, a pinnacle, from same source as beinn—Binnein liath, *J.* am Binneag, *K.* am Binnein, Binneinean, *M.*  
**biod**, a pointed top—Biod nan sgarbh, *I.* am Biod, *V.*  
**biolair**, water-cress, -e; *Adj.* biolaireach—Lòn biolaireach, *M.*

- bior**, a *stick, spit*, whence **biorach**, *sharp-pointed*, and dim., **bioran**, a *little sharp stick*—Cnoc nam bioran, *K.* Tom a' bhiorain, *C.* Beinn bhiorach, *I.*
- bìrlinn**, a *galley, yacht*, -inne—Port na bìrlinne, *M.*
- blàr**, a *field, moss*, **blàir**—Blàr mór, Blàr nan uan, *M.* Blàr mòna, *V.* Torr a' bhlàrain, *L.*
- bó**, a *cow*, **bà** and **bóin**; **bà** and **bò**—E. nam bò, *M.* Oitir nam bò, *I.* See **bà**.
- boc**, a *buck*, **buic**; **boc**—Sròn nam boc, *M.* Sgòr a' bhuic, *S.* Sgur a' bhuic, *V.* Rudha a' bhuic, *I.* Allt a' bhuic, *K.*
- bòcan**, a "*bogle*," -ain; -an—Torr a' bhòcain, *P.*
- bodach**, an *old man*, a *carle*, -aich; -ach—Carraig nam bodach, *K.* Druim mór nam bodach, *K.* Bodach bochd, *C.*
- bodha** (*N.*), a "*breaker*," *sunken rock*—Bodha a' bhuilg, *V.*
- bog**, *soft, wet*, whence **boglach**, a *bog*, and dim., **boglachan** and **bogadh**, *to wet, or soften.* From *Gen. Fem.* comes a' Bhuig-neach, *M.* Further, **Boglach** nan tarbh, *I.* Abhainn a' bhogaidh and Loch a' bhogaidh, *I.* Bog àiridh and **Boglach mór**, *M.*
- bòidheach**, *pretty, beautiful*—Blàran bòidheach, *C.* Baile bòidheach, Lianag bhòidheach, *K.* Beinn bhòidheach, *L.*
- boiteag**, a *maggot*, -eige—Clach na boiteige, *A.*
- bòilich**, *boasting*—Braigh bòilich, *G.*
- bolg**. See **balg**.
- bonn-a-sia**, a *halfpenny*—Lochan a' bhonn-a-sia, *V.*
- bonnach**, a *bannock, cake*, -aich; -ach—Cruach nam bonnach, *K.*
- bòrd**, a *table*, **bùird**; **bord**—am Bòrd Latharnach, *V.* Bòrd mór and Bòrd dubh, *K.*
- bothan**, a "*bothie*," *hut*, -ain; -an—Sloc a' bhothain, *L.*
- brach**, *to rot*, whence **braich**, *malt*; **bracha**—Lochan na bracha, *S.*
- bradan**, a *salmon*, -ain—Dail a' bhradain, *K.*
- braid**, *theft*, whence **braidein** (*m.*) and **bradag** (*f.*), a *thief*—Bail' na braid, Cnoc a' bhraidein, *K.*
- bràighe**, the *upper part*, the "*brae*," **bràghad**; -ean—Achadh bràghad, *K.* Bràigh' nan allt, *A.* Doire bràghad, *M.*
- brat**, a *covering, mantle*, **brait**; **brat**—Brat-bheinn, *J.*
- bràth** and **brà**, a *quern*, **brathan**—Sròn nam brathan, *A.*
- breabag**, a *kiln* (Manx names), -aige; -ag.

- breac**, *speckled*, whence **breac**, *a trout, the speckled one*, and **breac**, *the small-pox*, and **breac-an**, *a (tartan) plaid*—**Breac achadh**, *I. Achadh nam breac*, *P. Loch nam breac buidhe*, and *Cruach nam breacan*, *K. Coire Bhreacain*, *J. (note).*
- breamain**, *the tail of a sheep*; *Adj. breamanach*—**Cnoc breamanach**, *C.*
- Breatannach**, *a Briton*, **-aich**; **-ach**—**Rudh' a' Bhreatannaich**, *K. Sròn a' Bhreatannaich*, *S.*
- bréid**, *a rag, "doot,"* **-ean**; *Adj. bréideineach*—**Bréid buidhe**, *K. am Bréideineach*, *M.*
- breug**, *a lie*—**Tom an fhir bhréige**, *L.*
- breun**, *putrid, wild*—**Breun-phort**, *J.*
- broc**, *a badger*, **bruic**; **broc**—**Lochan a' bhruic**, *L. Sròn nam broc*, *S. Torr nam broc*, *V.*
- brodach**—**Sloc brodach**, *J. (note).*
- broighlich**—**Allt broighlichein**, *L. (note).*
- broilein**, *king's-hood, the monkeylies*—**am Broilean**, *M.*
- bròn**, *sorrow*, **bròin**—**Leac a' bhròin**, *K. Meall a' bhròin*, *V.*
- brù**, *a belly*, **bronn**—**am Brù**, *M. a' Bhrù-mhór*, *S.*
- bruach**, *a bank, brink*, **bruaiche**; **bruach**; *dim., bruach*, **-ag**—**Bruach mhór**, *M. Tigh na bruaiche*, *C. Eilean nam bruachan*, *Sgeir bruachaig*, *L.*
- bruthach**, *a "brae,"* **-aich**—**Coire ruadh-bhruthaich**, *M. bruthach mór*, **Bruthach a' chladaich**, *I.*
- buachail**, *a cowherd*; **-ean**—**Buachail Etive**, *am Buachail*, *L. Creag a' bhuachaille*, *K. Tom nam buachaille(an)*, *L. Sròn bhuachaillean*, *C.*
- buaile**, *a fold (of cattle)*—**Eas na buaile**, *L. Cnoc na buaile salaich*, *K.*
- buailtean**, *a flail*, **-ein**; **-ean**—**Rudha nam buailtean**, *K.*
- buidhe**, *yellow*—**Allt buidhe**, *K. Loch buidhe*, *M. Coire buidhe*, *V. Lag buidhe*, *I. Bréid buidhe*, *K.*
- buidseach**, *a witch*, **-iche**; **-ean**—**Port nam buidsichean**, *M.*
- buigneach**—**a' Bhuigneach**, *M. From bog, soft, wet.*
- buinne**, *a stream*—**am Buinne**, *I.*
- buinneag**, *a twig*, **-eige**—**Cnoc nam buinneag**, *J.*
- bùireadh**, *a roaring, the rutting season*, **-idh**—**Meall a' bhùiridh**, *P.*

**bun** (p. 141)—Bun atha, *P.*

**bùth**, a “booth,” *shop*—Rudha nam bùth, *M.* Both-kolli-dar, *C.*

**càbag**, a *cheese*, -aige; -ag—Dail na càbaige, *L.*

**cabar**, a “caber,” *rafter, stag-horn*, -air; -ar—Cabrach, *J.* Barr nan cabar. *C.* Bealach nan cabar, *L.*

**cachliath**, a *hurdle-gate* (cadha, a *pass*, + cliath, a *hurdle*), -chleith—Cachliath mhór, *I.* Tobar na cachleith, *S.*

**cadal**, *sleep*, -ail—Tom a’ chadail, *A.* Caddletown (?), *L.*

**cadan** (note).

**cadha**, a *pass*—a’ Chadha ruadh, *A.* Cadh’ an easa, *M.*

**caibeal**, a *chapel*, -eil—Caibeal Chiarain, *L.*

**caigean**—an Caigean, *V.* an Caichean, *M.*

**cailleach**, an *old wife, hag*, -iche—Rudha na cailliche, *J.K.*

Allt nan cailleach, *S.* Beinn na caillich, *I.* Càrn na cailliche, *V.* Barr chailleach, *M.*

**cairealach**, *noisy*, “choral,” -ach!—an Cairealach, *M.*

**cairidh**, a *weir*—a Chairidh, *S.M.* Barr na cairidh, *C.L.*

**calpa**, the *calf of the leg*—Calpa, *S.*

**caise**, *cheese*—Meall a’ chàise, *L.V.* Eas a’ chàise, *K.* Uamh a’ chàise, *J.*

**caiseal** (p. 91)—Lochan na caisil, Loch a’ chaisil, *A.*

**caisteal**, a *castle*, -eil—Caisteal beag and mór, *M.*

**calaman**, a *pigeon*, -ain; -an—Eilean a’ chalamain, *M.*

**calbh** (*N.*), a *calf*—a small island which is *calf* to a greater.

**calg**, a *bristle, awn, beard of corn*, cuilg—Calgaraidh, *M.*

**calltunn**, *hazel*, -uinn—Barr(a) calltuinn, *P.* Cnoc a’ challtuinn, *M.*

**cam**, *bent, crooked*—a’ Cham-chuairt, *C.* Loch Cam, *I.* Camloch, *K.L.* Abhainn cam-linne, *L.*; whence **cam** as name for a winding river—Loch na caime, *J.*; and **Camus**, -uis, a *bay*—Camus mór, *M.* Camus a’ choirce, *S.*

**campa**, a *camp*, *A.C.I.*

**canach**, *erriophorum*—Loch nan canach, *K.* Gleann Canach-adan, *C.*

**canndair**, a *chanter*—Barr a’ channdair, *L.* (p. 58).

**caochan**, a *streamlet*, -ain; -an, *freq.*



**caol**, *narrow*, whence **Caolas**, -ais, a Strait, Sound; **caol** is also used as a *Noun*—Port caol, *L.* Caol-ghleann, *C.* Dail a' chaolais, *L.* Bail' a' chaolais, *P.* Caolas-port, *K.* Aird a' chaoil, *M.* Caol àrd, *P.* Caol Ìle, *I.* na Caoil Bhótach (Kyles of Bute).

**caora**, *a sheep*, -ach; -ach—Lochan nan caorach, *A.* Eilean nan caorach, *M.* Maol nan caorach, *I.*

**caorunn**, *the rowan tree*, -uinn; -an—Beinn a' chaoruinn, *S.* Loch a' chaoruinn, *I.* Maol a' chaoruinn, *M.*

**capull**, *a horse* (Lat. *caballus*), latterly *a mare*, -aill; -ull—Capull corrach, *M.* Beinn a' chapuill, *L.M.* Lag nan capull, *I.* Aird nan capull, *L.* As *Adj.* Cnoc capullach, *M.V.* See Caipleach, *P.*

**càrdadh**, *carding* (wool), -aidh—Gleann a' chàrdaidh, *I.*

**càrn**, *a heap of stones*, cùirn; càrn—Càrn dubh, *C.* Druim a' chùirn, *I.* Achadh nan càrn, *P.* Stac a' chùirn, *L.* Also dim., **Carnan**, *P.*, and **Carnach** (p. 13) is very frequent—Dubh-charnan, *L.*

**carrach**, *stony*—Cnoc carrach, *J.M.* Eilean carrach, *K.* Sgeir charrach, *A.* Akin to which is **carragh**, *a stone pillar*—an Carragh, *I.* Carragh Chaluim bhàin, *J.*

**carraig**, *a rock*, -e—Carraig mhòr, *I.*; dim., **carraigea**n—Loch a' charraigea, and Sgeir a' charraigea (note).

**carran**, *spurrey* (Spergularia), -ain; -an—Gart a' charrain, *L.* Achadh nan carran, *L.V.* Coir' a' charrain, *M.* Carran buidhe, *K.*

**cas**, *steep*—Beinn chas, *R.*

**cat**, *a cat*, cait; cat—Creag a' chait, *I.* Allt a' chait, *V.* Cat-innis, *P.*

**cath**, *battle*—Sliabh a' chath, *I.*

**cathan** is *Masc.* and **cathag** *Fem.* for *a wild goose*—Beinn nan cathan, *A.* Tom na cathaig, *R.*

**càthar**, *a mossy, wet, high ground*, -air—Càthar a' mhuinichill, *K.* Càthar nan eun, *J.*

**cathlun**, *a corn, excrescence*—an Cathlun, *L.*

**ceall** and **cill**, *a church*, cille—a' Chill, *G.P.* Port na cille, *I.*

**ceann**, *a head, upper end*, cinn; ceann (*G.*)—Ceann locha freq. Locative form, Cinn tìre, *K.* Cinn a' gheàrr-loch, *V.*

**ceapach**, a tillage plot, -aiche—Ceapach, *K.*

**cearc**, a hen, circe; **cearc**—Coire na circe, *M.* Coire circe, *P.* Dail nan carc, *S.* Rudha nan carc, *M.*

**cearcall**, a hoop, circle, -aill; -all—Coire a' chearcaill, *G.*

**ceàrd**, a craftsman, latterly a tinker, **ceàird**—Cnoc a' cheàird, *I.* Loch nan ceàrd mor, *A.*, whence

**ceàrdach**, a smithy, -ach—Gleann na ceardach, *K.* Lochan na ceardach, *S.* (note).

**ceathach** and **ceò**, mist—Coir' a' cheathaich, *P.* Poll a' cheò, *J.*

**ceathramh**, a quarter; -an—Ceathramh fuar, *K.* Garrachra, *C.* = Garbh cheathramhe (?) Garrowcherran = Garbh cheath-r-amh-an (the italicised letters are not pronounced in ordinary speech).

**ceum**, a step, **ceuma**—Achadh a' cheuma, *L.*

**cill**, see **ceall**—Eilean na cille, *L.*

**cìob**, mountain-grass (*Scirpus caespitosus*), **cìbe**; **cìob**—Loch nan cìob, *K.* Cruach na cìbe, *C.*

**cìoch**, mamma, **cìche**—a' Chìoch, *M.* Sgòrr na cìche, *P.*

**ciste**, a chest, **cist**—Cnoc na ciste, *M.* Eilean na ciste, *M.*

**clach**, a stone, **cloiche**; **clach**—Clach-gheal, *K.S.* Whence Clachan, *K.L.*, and **clachach**, stoney—Coire clachach, *M.*

**cladach**, a shore, -aich—Dubh-chladach, *K.* Cladach fionn, *I.* Goirtean a' chladaich, *G.* Tìgh a' chladaich, *I.*

**cladh**, a burial-place—Cladh a' mhuilinn, *G.* Port a' chlaidh, *M.* Cladh a' bhile, *K.*

**claidheamh**, a sword, -eimh—Cnoc a' chlaidheimh, *I.* Sgeir a' chlaidheimh, *M.* Rudh' a' chlaidheimh, *V.*

**claigionn**, a skull, -inn; -eann—Claigionn, *I.V.* Lochan a' chlaiginn, *L.M.* (p. 104).

**clais**, a ditch, furrow, -e; -ean—a' Chlais, *S.* Druim na claise, *A.*

**clamhan**, a buzzard, -ain; -an—Bail' a' chlamhain, *I.*

**claon**, inclining, sloping—Claonaird, *C.L.* Claonleathad, *V.* Claonaig, Cleongart, *K.*

**cléireach**, a cleric, clerk, -ich—Airidh a' chléirich, *V.* Sgeir a' chléirich, *L.* Leòb a' chléirich, *I.* Rudh' a' chléirich, *J.* Baile nan cléireach, *K.*

**cleit**, a rocky eminence—a' Chleit, a' Mhìnachleit, Barr a' chleit, *M.*

**cliabh**, a "creel," basket, the thorax, **cleibh**—Druim nan cliabh, *J.*

**cliath**, a hurdle, **cleithe**.

**clogaid**, a helmet, **-e**—Allt a' chlogaid, *M.*

**cloidheag**, a prawn, shrimp, **-eig**—Loch and Port na cloidheig, *M.*

**cluain**, a pasture, **-e** ; **-tean**—Cluaineag, *K.*

**cluas**, an ear, **cluaise** ; **cluas**—Cluas mhìn, Lag nan cluas, *M.*

**cnàmh**, a bone, **cnaimh** ; **cnàmh** and **cnaimhean**—Sgorr nan cnàmh, *G.* Meall nan cnaimhean, *V.*

**cnap**, a knob, lump, **cnaip** ; **cnap**—an Cnap, *K.* Teang' a' chnaip, *G.* Compare **Gnob**, *C.* Cnap reamhar, *C.*

**cnò**, a nut—a' Choille-chnò, *K.*

**cnoc**, a hillock, **cnuic** ; **cnoc**—Cnoc dubh, *I.* Tigh a' chnuic, *V.* Tigh nan cnoc, *I.*

**codha**, a skiff—Allt na codha, *M.* Seems same as **Coit**.

**coileach**, a cock, **-ich** ; **-each**—Tom a' choilich, *M.* Càrn nan coileach, *I.* Allt nan coileach, *V.* Loch Coilich, Srath nan coileach, *K.*

**coille**, a wood—Ceann na coille, *S.V.* Ard-choille, *M.* Gall-choille.

**coimheach**, strange, foreign ; as *Noun*, a foreigner—Lag a' choimhich, *M.*

**coimhead**, watching, look-out—Deagh choimhead, *L.*

**coinean**, a rabbit, **-ein** ; **-ean**—Eilean nan coinean, *J.L.* Airidh chonain, *K.*—or perhaps better, àiridh + Conan, a personal name—Innis Chonain (Loch Awe).

**coingheal**, a whirlpool (*G.*)—a' Choingheal, *P.*

**cóinneach**, moss, **-iche**—Blar na cóinnich, Loch a' chóinnich, *A.*

**coirbte**, "corrupt," accursed—Achadh coirbte, *V.*

**coirce**, oats—Camus a' choirce, *S.* Aird a' choirce, *M.*

**coire**, a cauldron, "corrie"—an Coire, *L.M.V.* Coire dubh, *S.*

**coit**, a small boat, **coite**—Loch a' choit, *I.* Rudh' a' choit, *A.* Abhainn na coite, *J.* Allt na coite, *I.*

**colann**, a body, carcass, **colna**—Druim nan colann, *K.*

**comar**, a confluence, **-air** (p. 10).

**còmhdhail**, a meeting—Càrn na còmhdhail, *S.* Allt na mì-chòmhdhail, *A.*

**còmhlà**, a *door-leaf*—Creag na còmhlà, *M.*

**còmhnard**, *level*, as *Noun* also—Iomaire còmhnard, *I.* Còmhnard, *M.*

**còmhrag**, a *conflict*, a *battle*, -aige; -ag—Eilean a' chomhraig, *K.*

**con**, *Gen. Pl.* of *cu*, which see—Conaire (con + faire), *Con-*tom, *J.* Tom nan con, *C.* Blàr nan con, *K.* (note *conaire*).

**connadh**, *firewood*, -aidh—Allt a' chonnaidh, *M.* Learg a' chonnaidh, *L.*

**corp**, a *dead body*, *cuirp*; whence **Corpach**, *E.J.* Corparsk (?), *C.*

**còrr**, a *crane*, *corra*—Loch na corra. *L.* na corra-ghriodhach, *I.*

**còrr**, *excess*, *outgrowth*—Còrrachadh, *L.* Cornan, *K.* Corran (p. 14). Còrr-larach, *G.*

**corrach**, *rugged*, *broken*—Cruach chorrach, Lephin corrach, *K.*

**còs**, a *hollow*, *cave*, *còis*; -an—Druim a' chòis, *P.* Achadh nan còsan, *V.* Ach' a' chòis, *C.K.* Tigh an chòisein, *K.*

**còta**, a *coat*—Cnoc a' chòta, *J.*

**cotan**, *cotton*, -ain—Port a' chotain, *I.*

**cothrom** (p. 59)—Allt a' chothruim, *S.* Lochan a' clothruim, *M.*

**crà**, *blood*, *death*; *Adj.* *red*—Crà-leacann, *C.R.*

**cràbhach**, *devout*, and as *Noun*, **cràbhaiche**, a *devout one*—Eilean a' chràbhaiche, *M.*

**cràc**, *croc*, a *deer's horn*—an Cràcaiche, *M.*

**cràdh**, *suffering*, *torment*—Cràdh-leathad, *M.* (?) Crà, which see.

**crann**, a *tree*—a *mast*, **croinn**; **crann**—Goirtean nan crann, Ard nan crann, *M.* Rudha nan crann, *J.* Whence **crannag**, a *wooden structure*, as the old "lake dwellings"—latterly a *pulpit*—Loch na crannaige, *A.I.* a' Chrannag, *K.M.L.*

**craobh**, a *tree*, **craoibhe**; **craobh**—Rudha na craoibhe, *V.* Leac na craoibhe, *K.*

**crasg**, an *across-land*, **craisg**—an Crasg, *S.* Allt a' chraisg, *L.* Crossan, *M.*; also of same meaning. Crossiebeg and Crossaig, *K.*

**creach**, *spoil*, *plunder*, *hosting*—Creach-bheinn, *S.M.* Creach-leac, *P.* Cnoc creach, *R.*

**creachann**, a *rugged*, *broken hillside*—an Creachann, *K.L.* Kinachreachain, *R.*

- creag**, *a rock*, **creige**, whence *dims.*, **creagan** and **creagaig** and *Adj.* **creagach**—Creag nam faoileann, *C.* Ceann a' chreagain, *S.* Beinn chreagach, *M.*, and Creaglan, *L.*
- creamh**, *garlic*—Creag a' chreamh, *J.* Lochan creamha, Allt nan creamh, *K.*
- criadh**, *clay*, **creadha**—Uamh na creadha, *A.* a' Chriadhach mhór, *M.*
- criathar**, *a sieve*—an Criathar, *K.* Lochan a' chriathraich, *L.*
- crioch**, *a march, end* (as *Lat. finis*), **-crìche**—Allt crìche, *M.* Tigh na crìche, *C.* Bàrr na crìche, *K.*
- crioman** and **criomag**, *a little bit*—Allt a' chriomain, *M.*
- crìon**, *little*—Crìon-làrach, *M.* Loch a' chrìon-doire, *L.*
- critheann**, *the aspen tree*—Critheagan, *C.* Sròn a' chritheagain, *G.*
- chrò**, *a pen, sty*e—Crò na bó glaise, *M.* Goirtean a' chrò, *J.* Aird a' chròtha, *M.* Creag a' chròtha, *L.* Port nan chrò (*Shuna*).
- croch**, *hang*, whence **crochadair**, *a hangman*, and **crochaire**, *one deserving to be, or having been, hanged*—Tom a' chrochadair, *A.* Tom a' chrochaire, *M.* Stac a' chrochaire, *K.*
- crodh**, *cattle*, **cruidh**—Meall a' chruidh, *S.*
- cròg**, *a claw, paw*, whence *dim.*, **crògan**, *M.*, and Maol na cròige, *M.*
- crois**, *a cross and across*, **croise**—Achadh na croise, *M.* Port na croise, *P.* Druim na croise, *I.* Crois-bheinn, *V.*
- croit**, *a croft*, **croite**—Croit an tuim, *C.* Rudha na croite, *M.*
- crom**, *bent*; whence **cromag**, *a hook*; **croman**, *the bent one—a snipe*; and *Adj.* **cromagach**—Port crom, *K.* Allt a' chromain, *I.K.* Rudha cromagach, *K.*
- crònan**, *a "croon," purring*, **-ain**—Cnoc a' chrònain, *M.* Eas nan Crònan, *L.*
- cruach**, *a pile, stack*, **cruaiche**; whence **Cruachan**, *I.M.P.*—Cruach nan tarbh, *C.* Cruach nam feàrna, Lochan na cruaike, *G.* a' Chruach, *P.C.K.*
- cruaidh**, *hard*—Cruaidh-ghleann, *J.*
- crùb** and **cròb**, *a claw*, **cruibe**—Cruib, *J.*
- crudha**, *a horse-shoe*—Port na crudha, *M.*
- cruinn**, *round*—Tigh cruinn, *I.* Port nan clach cruinne.
- crullach**, *see p. 111*—Port nan Crullach, *M.*

**crùn**, a crown, top—Crùn-loch, *V*.

**cù**, a dog, coin; **con**—Achadh nan con, *P*. Cruach nan con, *M*.  
Blàr nan con, *K*.

**cuairt**, a round, circuit—Cam-chuairt, *C*.

**cuan**, the ocean, **cuain**—Bail' a' chuain, *L*.

**cùbair**, a cooper; **-ean**—Cnoc nan cùbairean, *M*.

**cubhag**, the cuckoo, **-aige**—Loch na cubhaige, *C.S.L.*

**cùil**, a nook, recess, **-e**—a' Chùil, *G.I.* Ard-cùile, *L*. Port na cùile, Cùil na seamrag, *K*.

**cuile**, a reed, **-e**—Port na cuilce, *Col*. Lochan chuilceachan, *C*.

**cuileag**, a fly, **-eige**; **-eag**—Lochan na cuileige, *M*.

**cuilean**, a whelp, cub, **-ein**—Cruach nan cuilean, *K.C.* Doire nan cuilean, *M*.

**cuillionn**, holly, **-inn**—Camus a' chuilinn, *G*. Rudh' a' chuilinn, *L*. Sròn a' chuilinn, *K*. Meall a' chuilinn, *S*.

**cuimhne**, memory—Cnoc na dì-chuimhne, *M*.

**cuinneag**, a wooden pail, water-carrier, **-eige**; **-eag**—Loch nan cuinneag, *R*.

**cùirt**, a court, **-e**—Camus na cùirte, *P*.

**cùl**, back, as opposed to *front*—Cùlàrd, *L*. Cùl a' mhuilinn, *M*.

**cullach**, a boar, **-aich**—Màm a' chullaich, *V*.

**cumhang**, narrow; as *Noun*—Cumhang mór, *J*.

**curach**, a coracle—Port currach, *K*.

**curra**, see *corr* = *corra*, a heron—Lochan a' churra, *A*. Meall na curra, *V*.

**currachd**, a hood, mutch, **-aichd**—Currachd mór, *P*.

**currach**, a racecourse—a' Currach, *R*. Currach mór, *K*.

**cuthach**, madness, **-aich**—Cròb a' chuthaich, *M*.

**dà**, two—Beinn (ea)dar (dhà) loch, *P*. Gleann eadar dà chnoc, *K*. Gleann (eada)r (dh)à loch = Glenralloch, *K*. Cnoc an dà chinn, *M*. Bardaravine = Bàrr eadar dhà bheinn, *K*.

**dail**, a field, dale, dalach—Dail, *I*. Meall dalach, *C*. Cùl na dalach, *L*.

**dàir**—Lochan na dàiridh, *M*.

**dall**, blind, and as *Noun*, dall; doill, a blind one—Gart an doill, *M*.

**dam**, a water-dam—an Dam (Loch Avich), *L*.

- damh**, an *ox*, **daimh**; **damh**—Maol an daimh, *M.* Doire dhamh, *S.* Torr dhamh, *P.* Meall nan damh, *G.*, and dim., Eas damhain, *C.* Meall an damhain, *V.*
- darach**, *oak*, **-aich**; **-ach**—Bacan daraich, *S.* Doire daraich, *M.* Achadh nan darach, *P.* As *Adj.* Bàrr darach, *K.* Druim darach, *C.* Gleann darach, *K.*
- deagh**, *good*—Deagh-choimhead, *L.*
- deala**, a *leech*, **-chan**—Loch nan dealachan, *I.*
- deanntag**, a *nettle*, **-aige**, with *Adj.*, deanntagach.
- deararach**—an Derarach, *M.* (note).
- dearc**, a *berry*, **-an**, dim. **-ag**—Coire nan dearcag, Beinn nan dearcag, *M.* Loch nan dearcag, *G.*
- dearg**, *red*—Dearg-allt freq. Rudha dearg, *G.* Sròn dearg, *C.*
- deòradh**, an *exile*, **-aidh**—Port an deòraidh, *L.*
- deuchainn**, *difficulty*—Cnoc na deuchainn, *M.*
- dìg**, a *ditch*, **-e**—an Dìg, *A.* Means “a dyke” also.
- dìol**, *recompense*—Lochan dìol Choinnich, *L.*
- diolaid**, a *saddle*, **-e**—an Diolaid, *M.* Diolaid mhór, *K.* Port na diolaide, *I.* Rudha na diolaide, *M.* Diolaid nam fiadh, *I.*
- diùbh**, *bad, the worst*—Deucheran, *K.*
- dobhar**, *water*, **-air**; whence **dóbhra**, an *otter*, **-ain**—Lochan dóbhra, *K.* Lochan an dóbhra, *A.* Gleann an dóbhra, *I.* (Rum). Beinn dobhra, *P.*
- doid**, *the hand, grasp*, **-e**; hence a *holding, farm*—Bagh na doide, Doide farnis, *K.*
- doire**, a *thicket, grove*—Doire donn, *G.* Doire na mart, *V.* Sròn-doire, *K.* Bail’ an doire, *P.* Garbh-dhoire, *K.*
- dòirlinn**, an *isthmus* (p. 15).
- domhain**, *deep*—Gleann domhain, *L.* Allt (d)omhain, *M.*
- dòmhnach**, *Sunday* (Lat. *dominica*), **-aich**—Maol an dòmhnaich, *M.* Beinn dòmhnaich, *C.*
- donn**, *brown*—Sloc an eich dhuinn, *L.*
- dorcha**, *dark*—Doire dorcha, *M.* Srath dorch, *I.* Cruach dorch, *L.*
- dorus**, a *door, opening*, **-uis**—an Dorus mór, *L.*
- dreaghan**, a *dragon*—Loch an dreaghain, *M.*—droighinn (?)
- dris**, *the bramble-bush*, **-e**; **-ean**, whence dim., **driseag**, **-eige**, and *Adj.* **driseach**—Beinn na drise, *M.* Druim driseig, *K.*

Lag na driseige, *M.* Ard-driseig, *R.* Port driseach, *C.*  
Doire driseach, *G.* Goirtean driseach, *M.*

**drochaid**, a bridge, -aide—Ceann na drochaid, *I.* Ard na drochaide, *M.* Cos an drochaid, *K.*

**droigheann**, thorn, -inn; whence **droighneach**, a thornwood—  
Port an droighinn, *I.* Tigh an droighinn, *K.* Ard an droighinn, *P.* Gleann nan droigheann, *A.*

**droman**, the alder-tree, -ain—Barrach an dromain, *M.*

**druim**, a back, **droma** (Lat. *dorsum*)—Sròn an droma, *P.* Ceann an droma, *M.* Tigh an droma, *P.* na Druiminean, *V.* Drumlemble (*N.*), *K.* Druim nan torran, *S.*; whence

**druimneach**—Ard-druimnich (twice), *A.*

**duathar**, a shade, -air and -ach—Beinn na duatharach, *M.*

**dubh**, black, whence **dubhan**, a fish-hook, and dim., **dubhaig**—  
Dubh-chladach, Dubh-loch, Lochan-dubh, *K.* Dubh-leitir, *C.M.* Loch nan dubhan, *S.* Abhainn dubhan, *R.* (River) Dubhaig, *M.*, and Poll an dubhaidh (gerund), *A.I.L.*

**duileag**, a leaf, -eige; -ean—Allt nan duileag, *L.*

**duileasg**, dulce, -isg—Eilean an duilisk, *Col.*

**duine**, a man (*homo*); **daoine**—Rudh' an duine, *J.* Port an duine, *P.*

**dùn**, a heap, (2) a fort—dim., Dunan, *P.C.* Dun an òir, *C.*, and see Duns, p. xix.

**dunach**, woe, -aiche—Glac na dunaiche, *J.* Tom dunaiche, *R.* Creag na dunaich, *C.*

**eabar**, mud, a marsh—Eabar (Apper), mòr and beag, *M.*

**each**, a horse, eich; each—Pàirc an eich, *J.* na h-eich dhonna (rocks), *L.* Sloc an eich, *V.*

**eadar**, between (Lat. *inter*). See dà.

**eagal**, fear, -ail; whence *Adj.* eagallach, used also as noun—  
Cruach an Eag'laich, *L.* Eilean an eagail, *R.*

**eaglais**, a church (Lat. *ecclesia*), -e; -ean—Eaglais Bhògain, Baile na h-eaglaise, *I.* Aird eaglais, *M.*

**eala**, a swan—Loch nan eala, *P.* Rudha na h-eala, *S.* Loch nan ealachan, *A.*

**eanchainn**, the brain, -e—Sgùr na h-eanchainne, *G.*

**earasaid**, *I.* See p. 151.



**earba**, a *roe*, dim., **earbag-aige**; -ag—Sàilean na h-earba, *A.*

Doire na h-earbaige, *K.*

**eàrnach**, *bloody flux* (in cattle)—Ach' an' eàrnaich, *I.*

**earrach**, *spring*, -aich—Crò-earraich, *I.*

**eas**, a *waterfall*; *Adj.* **easach**—Eas dubh, *S.* Tigh an eas, *L.*

Torr an eas, *M.* Allt easach, *P.* Dims., Bun easain, *M.*

Inbher easragain, *P.*

**easach**, see **eas**. Compare names in -ach, p. 8.

**easbuig**, a *bishop* (*episcopus*)—Clach an easbuig, *K.* Eilean an easbuig, *J.*

**eascaraid**, an "*ex-friend*," enemy—Tigh an eascaraid, *V.*

**eascairt**, *K.*, from eas (above) + ag + àird.

**eidheann**, *ivy*, -inn—Camus eidhinn, *S.* Torr an eidhinn, *V.*

Leac eidhne, Càrn eidhinn, *I.*

**eilean**, an *island*—Achadh nan eilean, *S.*, and freq.

**eilid**, a *hind*, éilde; -ean—Ath na h-éilde, *S.* Cnoc na h-éilde, *I.*

Achadh an eilid, *C.* Tom nan éildean, *M.* Làirig éilde, *P.*

**eilthireach**, a *pilgrim*, -ich (from eile, *other*, + tìr, *land*—a *pilgrim*)—Loch nan eilthireach, *K.*

**eireag**, a *pullet*, -eige—Cnoc na h-eireige, *K.*

**Eirionnach**, an *Irishman*, -aich—Dail an Eirionnaich, *L.*

**éiteach**, *burnt roots of heath*, -ich—Sgur an éitich, *L.*

**eòrna**, *barley*—Goirtean eòrna, *A.K.*

**eun**, a *bird*, eoin; eun—Eun-loch, *L.* Dail an eoin, *L.* Sgeir an eoin, *A.* Lochan eun, *K.*

**fàd**, a *peat*—Airidh- and Achadh-nam fàd, *K.* Cruach nam fàd, *K.*

**fada**, *long*—Druim fada, *I.* Beinn fhada, *M.*

**faiche**, a "*green*," field—Dubh-fhaiche, *I.*

**fàire**, a *ridge*, *sky-line*—Fàire bhuidhe, *M.*

**faire**, a *watch*, *guard*—Cnoc faire, *K.* Cnoc na faire, *I.L.*

Beinn na faire, *K.*

**famhair**, a *giant*, *ogre*—Torr an fhamhair, *A.V.*

**fang**, a *sheep-pen*, faing (*N.*)—Fang dubh, *I.* na Faing àrda, *M.* Allt an fhaing, *V.*

**faobh**, *spoil*, *booty*—Cnoc nam faobh, *V.*

**faochag**, a *winkle*, -aige; -ag—Lùb faochaige, *C.* Sgeir nam faochag, *M.*

- faodhail**, a *ford*, **faodhla** (p. 15)—an Fhaodhail dubh, *A.*  
Tigh na faodhla, *I.*
- faoileann**, a *sea-gull*, -inne; -ean—Faoilean ghlas, *M.* Loch  
na faoilinn, *K.* Rudha and Port na faoilinn, *M.* Rudha  
na faoileige (dim.), *I.L.*
- fàradh**, a *ladder*—am Fàradh, *L.V.* Meall an fhàraidh, *C.*
- farsuinn**, *broad*—Gleann farsuinn, *M.*
- fàsach**, a *wilderness, waste place*—am Fàsach, *I.*
- fasgadh**, *shelter*, -aidh; with *Adj.* fasgach—Ard an fhasgaidh,  
*L.* Creag an fhasgaidh, *C.* Cnoc fasg'ach, *C.*
- fead**, a *whistle*; whence **feadag**, a *plover*, “*whistler*,” -aige; -ag  
and feadan, a *flute* (*G.*)—Cnoc na feadaige, *L.* Fidden, *M.*
- feaman**, a *sheep's tail*, -ain; -ean—na Feamainean, *I.*
- feannag**, a *hoody crow*; (2) a “*lazy-bed*”—Beinn and Cnoc  
na feannaige, *M.* Leanag na feannaige, *I.* Srath na  
feannaig, *K.* Rudha nam feannag, *V.*
- fear**, a *man* (Lat. *Vir*), *fir*; fear—Uamh nam fear, *I.* Rudha  
and Lag nam fear, *M.*
- feàrna**, the *alder-tree*; whence **feàrnach**, an *alder wood*—Doire  
feàrna, *I.* Fasadh feàrna, *E.* Sloc nam feàrna, *K.* Feàr-  
nach, *K.L.* Cruach nam fearna, *P.*
- féith**, a *vein, sinew*; (2) féithe, a *bog* (*G.*)—Fèith a' chaoruinn, *J.*
- feòil**, *flesh*, feòla—Coire na feòla, *M.* Sloc na feòla, *M.*
- feoirlin** (p. 26), *K.R.*
- feòrag**, a *squirrel*, -aige; -ag—Innis nam feòrag, *A.*
- feur**, *grass*, feòir—Feur-loch, *K.L.* Eilean an fheòir, *M.*
- fiadh**, a *deer*, féidh; fiadh—Eas an fhéidh, *A.* Sgeir an  
fhéidh, *M.*
- fias**, old form fés, *hair*, is the stem in **fiasgan**, a *mussel* (= **fiasag-**  
**an**, the *bearded one*), -ain; -an—Leathad nam fias, *G.* Meall  
nam fiasgan, *A.*
- fidhleir**, a *fiddler*, -ean—Beinn an fhìdhleir, *C.*
- fidheal**, a *fiddle*, fìdhle—Leac na fìdhle, *V.*
- fincharn** (= fionn, *white*, + càrn)—Fincharn Castle, *L.*
- fiodh**, *wood*, fiodha—Fiodhan, *P.* Bealach an fhiodhain, *L.*
- flion**, *wine*—Tobar an fhìon, *C.*
- fionn**, *white*—Fionn-ard, *P.* Finnart, *C.* Fin-charn, *L.*
- fireach**, a *moor*—Bràigh an fhirich, *M.* Fireach na mòine, *L.*

- fireun**, *the eagle* (= *flor* + *eun*, *the true-bird* or *over-bird*)—  
Meall an fhìreoin, *A.* Allt an fhìreoin, *M.*
- fitheach**, *a raven*, -ich—Creag an fhithich, *S.L.* Creag nam  
fitheach, *L.* Binnein fithich, *K.*
- fiùran**, *a sapling*, -ain—Port an fhiùrain, *I.*
- fiuch**, *wet, damp*—Ruighe fliuch, *K.*
- fola**, *see fuil*—Loch na fola, *K.*
- fonn**, *land, district*—Leth-fhonn, *M.*
- fóthannan**, *a thistle* (*pr. fo'nan*), -ain; *Adj. -ach*—Goirtean  
fóthannanach, *K.*
- fradharc**, *sight, look-out*, -airc—Creag an fhradhairc, *A.*
- Frangach**, *a Frenchman*, -aich; -ach—Rudha na Frangach, *L.*
- fraoch**, *heather*, fraoich—Fraoch-eilean, *R.* Baile fraoich, *M.*
- fras**, *a shower*, froise—Glac na froise mìne, *M.*
- freasdal**, *Providence* (note)—Loch-fhreasdail, *C.K.*
- freiceadan**, *a guard (military)*, -ain—am Freiceadan dubh, *the*  
“*Black Watch.*” Cnoc freiceadain, Cnoc an fhreiceadain, *K.*
- freumh**, *a root*, -a—Meall nam freumha, *G.* Port nam freumha, *V.*
- frith**, *against* (p. 80)—Cnoc nam frith-allt, *S.*
- fuar**, *cold*; whence **fuaran**, *a small cold spring of water*—Fuar-  
achadh, *P.* fuar-bheinn, *V.* Binnein àirde fuaire, *L.*  
Achadh fuar, *C.* Coire nam fuaran, *S.* Eilean an fhuarain, *M.*
- fuil**, *blood*, fola—Loch na fola, *K.* am Blar fola, *S.*
- gabhail** (note)—Achadh ghabhal, *V.*
- gad**, *a withe, goid*; gad—Aird ghadan, *C.* Bar nan gad, *K.*  
Eilean nan gad, *A.* Loch nan gad, *M.*
- Gàidheal**, *a Gael*, -il; -eal—Eas a Ghàidheil, *A.*
- gailbheach**, *stormy, furious*—Allt gailbheach, *K.*
- gàilleach**, *a disease of the gums in cattle*, -iche—Ard na gaillich, *C.*
- gaillionn**, *a violent storm, and cold*, -inne—Port na gaillinne, *K.*
- gainmheach**, *sand*, -iche—Tom na gainmhiche, *A.* Eilean na  
gainmhiche, *M.* The primary form **gaineamh** is seen in  
Ganavan and Ardganavain, *R.* (*gaineamhein, a sandy beach*).  
Loch gainmhiche, *R.*
- Gall**, *a stranger, Lowlander*, Goill; Gall—Tìr a' Ghoill, *M.*  
Camus nan Gall, *G.A.* Càrn nan Gall, *I.* Bealach nan  
Gall, *K.* Gall-choille, *K.R.*

- gallan**, *a branch, a standing stone* — Port nan gallan, *I.* Gallanach, *R.* Glac ghallan, *M.*
- gamhainn**, *a stirk, gamhna* — Achadh nan gamhna, *V.* Tom nan gamhna, *C.* Eilean nan gamhna, *K.P.* a' Ghamhnach mhór, *M.*
- ganntar**, *scarcity, poverty, -air* — Tom a ghanntair, *A.* gainntir, *a prison*, is also possible, or even better in this case (p. 93).
- gànradh**, *a gander, -aidh* — an Gànradh (island), *I.*
- gaoth**, *wind, gaoithe*; and *Adjs. gaothach, gaothail* — Bealach gaoithe, *L.* Bealach gaoth-niar, *I.* Bealach gaothach, *C.* Gaothail (river), *M.* Dun dà ghaoithe, *M.*
- garaidh**, *a den, thicket* — Gairidh uisge, *M.*
- garbh**, *rough*; whence **garbhlach**, *rough ground* — Garbh-allt freq. Glac gharbh, *G.* Garbhlach mór, *A.* Garbh-shròn, *L.*
- gart** — Seann-ghart, Gart breac, Gart na ceàrdach, *I.* Gart na geàrrach, *K.* Allt ghartain, *P.*
- gas**, *a twig, stalk, gaise*; **gas** — Cruach na gaise caoile, *L.*
- gath**, *a sting, dart, gatha* — Loch a' ghatha, *K.*
- gèadh**, *a goose, gedidh*; **gèadh** — Loch a' gheòidh, *J.* Clach a' gheòidh, *K.*
- geal**, *white* — Uisgeacha geala, *M.*
- gealach**, *the moon, -aiche* — Lochan na gealaiche, *L.*
- geamhradh**, *winter, -aidh* — Baile geamhraidh, *M.V.*
- geàrr**, *short* — Geàrr-abhainn, *G.* Loch geàrr, *L.* Bealach geàrr, *K.* Cinn a' gheàrrloch, *V.* Whence **gearrach**, *diarrhæa*, "taken short."
- geàrr**, *cut*; whence **gearran**, *a gelding, -ain*; **-an**, and **gearradh**, *a cutting* — Achadh nan gearran, *G.* Bealach ghearran, *L.* Rudh' a' ghearrain, *M.* Sròn a' ghearrain, *P.*
- geata**, *a gate* — Tigh a' gheata, *K.*
- geodha**, *a creek* — Geodha ceann dà aoinidh, *M.*
- giall**, *a hostage, pledge* — Uamh nan giall, *J.*
- gibeach**, *ragged* — Beinn ghibeach, *J.*
- gille**, *a lad, -an* — Abhainn ghilleann, Carn nan gilleann, *J.*
- giubhas**, *fir, -ais*; whence **giùbhsach**, *a fir-wood*, and dim. **Giùbhsachan**, *S.* Glac a' ghiubhais, *G.* Allt a' ghiubhais, *L.* Leac a' ghiubhais, *M.*

**glac**, *a dell, small valley, glaice*; **glac**—Glac bheag, *L.* Bail' na glaice, *K.*

**glamradh**, *a smith's vice*—Rudh a' ghlamraidh, *L.* (note).

**glaodh**, *a cry, call, glaoidh*—Allt a' ghlaidh, *K.*

**glas**, *grey and green* (note); whence **glasach**, *ley land*—Glasbheinn, *V.* Glas-druim, *P.* Sgeir ghlas, Beinn ghlas, *M.* Achadh glas, *K.*

**glas**, *grey*; whence **glaiseach**, *ley-land*—Rudh' a' ghlaisich, *M.*

**gleann**, *a glen, glinn*—Gleann rainiche, *M.* Gleann mór, *A.*

**gnob**, *a hillock, knoll.* See **cnap**, p. 34.

**gob**, *a beak, guib*—Gob seileach, *A.* Gob a' ghrianain, *K.* an Guibein, *M.* Gob dubh, *J.*

**gobha**, *a smith, gobhainn, goibhne*—Peighinn a' ghobhainn, *M.* Bail' a' ghobhainn, *M.L.* Goirtean a' ghobhainn, *K.*

**gobhal**, *a fork, -ail; -al; Adj. góbhlach*—an Góbhlach (hill), *K.* Gleann góbhlach, *I.* Sgeir ghóbhlach, *A.*

**gobhar**, *a goat, gobhar and goibhre; -ar*—Gleann na gobhar, *G.* Baile na gobhar, *P.* Càrn goibhre, *L.* Stob goibhre, *P.* Maol nan gobhar, *I.* Eilean nan gobhar, *V.*

**goirtean**, see **gart** (*G.*)—an Goirtean. Coire 'ghoirtein, *I.*

**gon**, *wound*; whence **gonaidh** (gerund)—Coill a' ghonaidh, *M.*

**gorm**, *green, blue* (note)—Gleann and Rudh gorm, *M.*

**grànda**, *ugly*—Creag ghrànda, *K.R.*

**greideal**, *a grill, gridiron*—Greideal Fhinn, *A.*

**greusaiche**, *a shoemaker, -ean*—Coire nan greusaichean, *S.*

**grian**, *the sun, gréine*; whence dim. **Grianan** (*P.*), *a sunny patch of land*, and *Adj. grianail*—Sgur na gréine, *S.* Ob gréine, Grianan, Gob a' ghrianain, *K.* Cnoc grianail, *I.* Grianaig, *L.*

**grisionn**, *brindled (gris + fhionn, gray-white).*

**gruagach**, *a maiden, brownie* (note), **-aiche**—Lochan na gruag-aiche, *A.*

**gual**, *coal, charcoal, guail*—Coill' a' ghuail, *I.* Cnoc and Port a' ghuail, *K.*

**guala**, *the shoulder, -ann* (*G.*)—Guala na leitreach, *M.* Gualann dubh, *M.* Guala nan càrn, *K.*

**guirmein**, *a blue dye or colour*, from **gorm**—Rudh' a' ghuirmein and Eilean a' ghuirmein, *M.*

**ialtag**, *a bat*, -aige; -ag—Cnoc nan ialtag, Creag nan ialtag, *K.*

**ian**, *a bird*—Ian-eilean (Inellan), *C.*

**iarunn**, *iron*, -uinn—Cnoc iarunn, *K.*

**iasg**, *fish*, éisg; iasg; whence iasgach, *fishing*, iasgair, *a fisher*—Dun Iasgair, *M.* Rudh' an iasgaich, *M.* Iasg-loch, *L.* Aird an iasgaich, *A.*

**im**, *butter*, ime—Lochan an ime, *A.* Tobar an ime, *M.* Cnoc an ime, *J.* Eas an ime, *M.*

**inbhear**, *a confluence*, -ir—Inbhear a' bhaile, *I.* Inbhear-aora, *R.* Cill an inbhir, *L.* Torr an inbhir, *M.* Rudha na h-inbhire.

**innis**, *an island*; (2) *a sheltered valley*—Innis na feòrag, *A.*

**inntreadh**, *an entering upon or beginning*—Inntreadh, *V.*

**lochdar**, *the lower part*, -air; *Adj.* lochdarach—an t-iodhachdar freq. Iochrachan, *L.*

**iolach**, *rejoicing*, -aich—Barr iolaich, *C.* Bagh an iolaich, *M.*

**iolair**, *an eagle*, -e—Creag na h-iolaire, *L.* Cnoc na h-iolaire, *K.J.* Tom na h-iolaire, *C.*

**iomaire**, *a ridge of land*—Iomaire comhnard and Iomair' a' mhàil, *I.* Iomaire fada, *S.* na h-Iomairean, *V.* (note).

**iomall**, *a border, limit, or remote part*—Iomallach, *I.*

**iosal**, *low*—Eilean iosal, *J.*

**iubhar**, *the yew-tree*, -air; whence Iùbhrach, *a yew-wood*—Creag an iubhair, *M.* Sgùr an iubhair, *G.* an Iùbhrach, *S.M.L.* Gleann iubhair, *P.*

**lach**, *a wild duck*, -a—Achadh lacha, *K.* Loch nan lach, *I.*

**ladhar**, *a hoof*, -air; ladh'ran—Loch an ladhair, *M.* Port an ladhair, *I.*

**lag**, *a hollow*—Lag, *L.* Lagan, Lag a' mhuilinn, *I.* Lag an daimh, *C.*

**làir**, *a mare*, làire—Sgor na làire, *G.* Loch an làir (p. 69).

**làirig**, *a moor* (p. 16)—Largie, *K.L.R.*

**làmh**, *a hand*, laimhe—Loch na laimhe, *K.*

**laogh**, *a calf*, laoigh; laogh—Gleann laoigh, *C.*

**làrach**, *the site, or mark, of a decayed or destroyed house*, -aiche—*an* Larach bheag, *V.* *an* Larach, *P.* Ard-làrach, *I.I.P.* Crìon-larach, *M.P.* Fuar-larach, *K.* Lochan làraiche, *K.*

- làthach**, *mire*, -aiche—Camus and Port làthaich, *L*.
- leac**, a flat stone, flag-stone, lice; leac—Leac, *I*. Rudha nan leacag, Rudha na lice, an leacann, *K*.
- leamhan**, elm, -ain—Achadh leamhain, *L*. Beinn leamhain, *J*.
- leanabh**, an infant, child, leinibh; leanaban—Loch an leinibh, *I*.
- leanach**, a wet meadow (*G.*)—Leanach, *C*.
- learg**, a hill-side — Leargollagain, Lerags, *L*. Gleann dà leirg, *K*.
- leathad**, a hill-side, or side of a valley, leithid—Cromleathad, *A*.  
Leathad grianach, *P*. Garbh-leathad, Leathad mór, *M*.  
Loch an duibh-leathaid, *S*. Leac an leithid, *M*. Leth-allt, *L*. Leideag, Leathad nan coileach, *C*.
- leathan**, broad—Loch leathan, *G*. Gleann leathan, *M*.
- leitir**, a slope (*G.*) (leth, half, + tir, land), -ire and -each—  
Leitir mhór, *P*. Dubh-leitir, *A.M*. Garbh-leitir, *J*. Geàrr-leitir, *C*. Rudha and Guala na leitreach, *M*.
- lephìn** = leth-pheighinn, halfpenny (land) (*G.*)—Lephìn cille, *C*.  
Lephìn corrach and *L*. strath, *K*. Lephìn-chapel, *C*. See peighinn.
- leth**, a half—Leth Thorcuil, *M*. Leth-allt, *J*. Lailt, *K*.
- leum**, a jump—Leum-sgeir, *M*. Rudha nan leum, *V*.
- lian**, a field; whence lianag and Lianach, *C*.
- liath**, grey—Carn liath, Guala an liath ghuis (*see gas*), *V*. Coire liath, na Liathanaich, *M*. Cruach doire leithe.
- linne** (*G.*), a pool—Linne a' mhuirich, *K*. an Linne-sheileach (*L*. Linnhe).
- lìon**, fill; lionadh, filling, the flood-tide—Rudha and Port an lionaidh, *P*.
- lìon**, a net, lìn; lion—Achadh lion, *R*.
- lìon**, flax, lint, lìn—Glac an lìn, *M*. (or, perhaps, the word preceding, a net).
- liop**, a lip, -e—Rudha na leip, *M*.
- lios**, a garden, enclosure, stronghold—Lios-mór (p. 73).
- lobhar**, a leper, -air—Abhainn lobhair, *L*. (p. 44).
- loch**, a lake, a sea-loch, locha—Gleann locha, *K*. Ceann locha, *K*.
- lod**, a puddle; dim., lodan, -ain; -an—an Lodan, *P*.
- loisgte**, burned—Goirtean loisgte, Gart-loisg, *I*. Torr-loisg, *M*.
- lom**, naked; whence loman, -ain, a naked (needy) one.

**lòn**, *a marsh*, *loin*; *dims.*, **Lònan** and **Lònag**—**Lòn mór**, *L.J.*

**Tìgh an lòn**, *K.* **Eilean an lònain**, *K.* **Sròn lonaig**, *C.*

**long**, *a ship*, *luinge*; **long**—**Dail an long-airt**, *C.* (p. 25). **Lag na luinge**, *R.*

**longart** (p. 25). **Barr, Cùl**, and **Dail an longairt**, *K.*

**lorg**, *a staff*, *luirge*; **lorg**—**Tom luirge**, *K.* (note).

**losaid**, *a trough*, *I.K.L.*

**logann**, *a toad*, *-ainne*; *-ann*—**Dun losgainn**, *C.* **Loch losgann**, *J.K.* **Beinn nan losgann**, *A.*

**luachair**, *rushes*, and *-ach* for *Gen.* and *Adj.*—**Srath luachrach**, *I.* **Achadh and Barran luachrach**, *L.* **Luacharan**, *V.* **Luachragan**, *L.*

**luadh**, *fulling of cloth*, *luaidh*—**Lag a' mhuilinn-luaidh**, *M.*

**lùb**, *a bend*, *curve*, *luibe*; **lùb**—**Lùb (Loop)**, *K.* **Srath nan lùb**, *C.* **Lùb éilde**, *V.* **Loch lùbanach**, *J.*

**lurach**, *lovely*—**Loch lurach**, *K.*

**lurga**, *the shank*, *tibia*, *lurgann*—**an Lurgann**, *V.* **Achadh lurgainn**, *M.* **an Luirgneach**, *P.*

**lus**, *an herb*, *lus*—**Beinn nan lus**, *M.* **Lochan lus dubha**, *L.* **Cruach lusach**, *K.*

**lusragan**, *a herbalist* (from *lus*), *-ain*—**Allt lusragain**, *P.L.*

**mac**, *a son*, *mic*; **mac**—**Dail na mac**, *L.*

**machair**, *a plain*, *carse* (*G.*)—**Machair riabhach**, **Machri beg** and more, *K.*

**madadh**, *a dog* (p. 94), *-aidh*; *-adh*—**Eilean a' mhadaidh**, *M.* **Aird a' mhadaidh**, *L.* **Lochan a' mhadaidh-riabhaich**, *A.* **Cnoc a' mhadadh**, *K.* **Achadh na madadh**, **Bàrr a' mhadaidh**, *L.*

**màgan** and **màgachan**, *a toad* (from *màg*, *a paw*), **màgach**, *-an* = *one walking on its paws*—**Tìr a' mhàgain**, *L.* **Sròn mhàgachain**, *R.*

**magh**, *a field*, *maighe*—**Cnoc maighe**. **Magh mòr**, *C.*

**mainnir**, *a fold*, *enclosure*—**Mainnir nam fiadh**, *M.*

**màla**, *a bag* (of a bag-pipes especially), *wallet*—**am Màla**, *M.I.*

**màl**, *rent*, *tax*, *màil*—**Tìgh a' mhàil**, *P.*

**malairt**, *an exchange*, *market*—**a' Mhalairt**, *J.*

**maldag** (note)—**Sgeir maldaig**, *M.*



- màm**, a round hill (Hills), **maim**—Coir' a' mhaime, *K.*  
**maodlach** (note)—a' Mhaodlach, *V.*  
**maol**, bald—Maol-achadh, *L.* Sgeir mhaol, *K.* am Maolan, Cnoc maolanach, *M.* Maol-leitir, *C.*  
**maol** (noun). See Hills—Maol tarsuinn, *M.*  
**maorach**, shellfish, -aich; -ach—Rudha na tràighe maoraich, *M.* Bruach nam maorach, *V.*  
**mara**, see **muir**.  
**marag**, a pudding, -aige; -ag—Caraig na maraige, *C.*  
**maraiche**, a sea-man, from **muir**—Rudh' a' mharaiche.  
**marbh**, dead, as *Noun* **mairbh**; **marbh**—Port na marbh, *K.M.* Guala a' mhairbh, *M.*  
**marcachd**, riding, and **marcaiche**, a rider (from old **marc**, a horse)—Dùnan na marcachd and Dùnan a' mharcaiche, *M.*  
**margadh**, a market, -aidh—Loch a' bhaile mhargaidh, *J.*  
**mart**, a cow, **mairt**; **mart**—Doire na mart, *V.*  
**meadhon**, the middle; *Adj.* **meadhonach**—Baile meadhonach, *M.* Cruach mheadhonach, *M.*  
**mealladh**, deception—Sliabh a' mheallaidh, *I.*  
**meall**, a lump, heap, hill, mill—Meall mór, *K.*  
**meann**, a kid, **minn**; **meann**, with dim. **minnein**—Loch a' mhinn, *L.* na Minn (rocks), *M.* Sgeir na meann, *A.* Beinn na meann, *M.*  
**measan**, a lapdog, -ain—Coir' a' mheasain, *C.*  
**mèirleach**, a thief, -ich—Port nam mèirleach, *J.M.* Gleann nam mèirleach, *I.* Eas nam mèirleach, *L.*  
**mial**, animal, louse (note)—Torran nam mial, *S.* Lochan nam miall, *M.* Loch a' mhial-choin, *P.*  
**mias**, a dish, **mèise**; **mias**—Port na mèise, *I.*  
**mìn**, soft, smooth—Mìnard, *P.V.* Port mìn, *A.*  
**min**, meal, -e—Meall na mine, *M.*  
**ministeir**, a clergyman—Port a' mhinisteir, *M.*  
**mìnnseag**, a year-old goat—Cruach nam mìnnseag, *C.*  
**molach**, rough, hairy—Torra molach, *A.* Tom molach, *C.* Srath mollach, *K.* Creag mholach, *C.* Bàrr molach, *K.R.*  
**monadh**, a long mountain, -aidh—Monadh meadhoin, *V.*  
**mòine**, peat, **mòna**—Torr na mòna, *I.* Coire na mòna, *A.M.*  
**mór**, great—Beinn mhór, *M.*

**moraire**, *a lord* (*mor* + *fhear*, *great man*)—Coill a' mhoraire, *M.*  
**morbhach**, *sea-land over which high tides come* (p. 17).

**muc**, *a pig*, **muice**; **muc**, whence **muclach**, **mucrach** (p. 27).

Allt na muice, *I.* Leum na muice, *K.* Gleann na muice,  
*M.* Coire nam muc, *M.* Barr nam muc, *P.* Eilean nam  
 muc, a' Mhuclach, *M.* Coire na muclach, *K.*

**mùch**, *smother*—Allt a' mhùchaidh, *M.*

**muidhe**, *a churn*—Allt a' mhuidhe, *P.*

**Muileach**, *a Mull-man*—Port nam Muileach, *C.*

**muileann**, *a mill*, **-inn**—Cladh a' mhuilinn, *G.* Poll a'  
 mhuilinn, *M.* Lag a' mhuilinn, *I.*

**muilichinn**, *a sleeve*—Muilichinn leathann, Càthar a' mhuil-  
 ichinn, *K.*

**muir**, *the sea*, **mara**—Achadh na mara, *K.L.*

**muireach** (p. 17), **-ich**—Eilean a' mhuirich, *S.* Linn' a'  
 mhuirich, *K.P.* Port a' mhuirich, *K.*

**mullach**, *the top*, **-aich**—Mullach bàn, *I.M.* Mullach dubh, *A.*  
 Achadh a mhullaich, *M.*

**mult**, *a wedder*, **mult**; **mult**—Sloc a' mhuilt, *M.* Cruach nam  
 mult, *C.*

**mùsgan**, *the horse fish*, **-ain**; **-an**—Traigh nam mùsgan, *L.*

**Nant**, *a valley* (Welsh)—Gleann-nant, *P.*

**naomh**, *holy*, *a saint*; whence **naomhachd**, *holiness*—Cill an  
 naoimh, *I.* Eilean naomhachd, *K.*

**nathair**, *a serpent*, **nath'rach**—Àiridh nathràch, *K.*

**nead**, *a nest*, **nid**—Cruach an nid, *L.*

**niar**, *west*, = **an** + **iar**—Bealach gaoth niar, *I.* See *siar*.

**nigh**, *wash*; whence **nigheadaireachd**—Lochan na nigheadair-  
 eachd, *I.*

**nighean**, *daughter*, **inghne** (note); whence dim., **nìneag**—Eilean  
 na nighinn, *L.* Allt nighinn, *L.* Loch na h-inghinne, *K.*  
 Loch nan nighean, *A.*

**òb**, *a creek* (*N.*), dim., **òban-ain**—Òb gréine, *K.* Tigh an òb, *K.*  
 Rudh' an òba, *K.* an t-Òban, *P.*

**ochd**, *eight*; whence **ochdamh**, *an eighth* (p. 18)—Ochd a'  
 mhuilinn, Ochdamh fada, *I.*

**odhar**, *dun*—Cnoc odhar, *K.* Coire odhar, *K.I.* Allt odhar, *L.*  
Màm a' choir' idhir (a peculiar form), *M.* Saigh'dean  
odhara, *M.*

**ogha**, a *grandson*—Torr an ogha, *M.*

**òigh**, a *virgin*—Allt òigh, *L.*

**oir**, an *edge, border*. See Argyll (p. 2)—Oirean, *K.*

**oitir**, a *low promontory* (p. 44)—Oitir, *L.C.* Oitir nam bò, *I.*

**olann**, *wool, olainn*—Port na h-olainn, *K.*

**ollamh**, a *learned man, -aimh*—Crois an ollaimh, *M.*

**òmhan**, the *froth of milk, -ain*—an Tigh òmhain, *M.*

**òr**, *gold, òir*—Breman òir, *M.* Dùn an òir, *C.*

**òs**, the *mouth of a river (N.)*—Aros, *M.*

**pàirc**, a *park, -e*—Pàirc mhór, *I.* Allt nam pàircean, *K.*

**partan**, a *crabfish, -ain; -an*—Port a' phartain, Cnoc nam  
partan, *M.* Poll nam partan (Eigg).

**peacadh**, *sin, peacach, a sinner*—Loch nam peacach, *M.*

**peallach**, *shaggy*—Loch peallach, *M.*

**pearsa**, a *person, pearsan, a parson*—Loch pearsain, *L.*

**peighinn** (*G.*), a *penny (land)*—Peighinn a' ghobhainn, *K.M.*

Peighinn na croise, Peighinn a' Ghàidhil, Saor-pheighinn, *M.*

Peighinn nan searrach, Peighinn an inbhir, *K.* Peighinn-  
fuar, Peighinn mór, Ach' na leth-peighinn, *L.*

**peileir**, a *bullet, -ean*—na Peileirean, *I.*

**pìob**, a *pipe, bag-pipe, pìoba; pìob; whence pìobaire, a piper,*  
*pìobaireachd, piping*—Cnoc nam pìob, *M.* Cnoc na pìob-  
aireachd, *I.*

**ploc**, a *clod; Adj. plocach and dim. plocraig*—Sgeir phlo-  
cach, *I.*

**poll**, a *pool, pond, muddy hole, puill; poll*—Poll mór, *I.* Poll a'  
mhuilinn, *M.* Gart an rath phuill, *I.* Airidh pholl, *M.*

**port**, a *harbour, puirt*—Tigh a' phuirt, *P.* Eilean puirt  
réidh, *K.*

**pòsadh**, *marriage, -aidh; -adh (from pòs, marry)*—Allt nam  
pòsadh, *K.*

**preas**, a *bush, pris; Adj. preasach*—Leac a' phris, *V.* Rudha  
preasach, *C.*

**prìosan** (*am*), the *prison, L.*

**prop**, a *prop* (Eng.)—Cnoc nam prop, *K*.

**pubull**, a *tent*, -uill—Cruach a phubuill, *K*. Cnoc a' phubuill, Pubull Burn, *K*.

**put**, the *young of moor-fowl*; whence **putach** and dim. **putachan**—Putach an t-suidhe, Corr putachan, *K*.

**rà**, *red*—Rà-chreag, *R*.

**raineach**, *bracken, fern*, -iche; whence **Ranachan** (p. 8)—Achadh rainich, *L. V*.

**ràmh**, a *oar*—Rudha bristeadh ràmh, *M*.

**rang**, *rong*, a *boat-rib*, *spar*—Rudha na reinge, *M*.

**raon**, a *plain*—Port raoin mhóir, *K*.

**ràpach**, *noisy, rapach, foul-mouthed, foul* (of weather), as Fem. Noun in Sìthean na rapaiche, *M*. Eilean ràpach (N. of Iona).

**rathad**, a *road*, -aid—Druim an rathaid, *K*. Tigh an rathaid, *C*.

**rath**, a *fort* (note)—Rathuaidh, *V*. (p. 18).

**reamhar**, *fat, thick*—Cnoc reamhar, *I.K.M*. Lochan nam breac reamhra, *L*.

**reatha**, a *ram, tup*, -chan—Sron reatha, *L*. Beinn reatha, *C*.

**réidh**, *level, smooth*—Loch réidh, *I*. Druim réidh, *K*. Meall réidh, *L*. Eilean nan réilean, *M*. Gleann réidh, *K*.

**réis**, a *race* (note)—Garbh-réis and Corr-réis, *L*.

**reothairt**, *spring-tide*—Sruthan reothairt, *I*.

**riabhach**, *brindled*, the colour of the wren, which is called **riabhag**. The devil is the **riabhach mór**, the *mighty singed-one*—Coire riabhach, *G*. Leac riabhach, *S*. Rudha riabhach, *P*. Mòine riabhach, Dail riabhach, *I.K*.

**ribeadh**, *snaring*, -idh (from *rib, ensnare, entangle*)—Tigh an ribidh, *M.P*.

**ribheid**, a *reed*, -e—Linne na ribheid, *M*.

**ridire**, a *knight*—Rudh' an ridire, *V*.

**rìgh**, a *king*—Bail' an rìgh, *P*. Rudha and Eilean an rìgh, *M*.

**ròmach**, *hairy*, "*drumly*."

**ròn**, a *seal*, *ròin*; **ròn**—Port nan ròn, *M*. Loch nan ròn, *J*. Rudha nan ròn, *L*. Rònachan, *K*.

**ròpa**, *rope*—Uamh ròpa, *K*.

**ros**, a *promontory* (note)—an Ros Muileach, *M*.

**ruadh**, *red, brick-colour*; whence **ruadhag**, *a hind*—Allt ruadh, *I.*

Sgeir ruadh, *M.* Ruadh-ghoirtean, Allt ruadh-bhuic, *C.*

Cnoc na bó ruaidhe, *M.* Meall nan ruadhag, *G.*

**rudha**, *a promontory*—Tigh an rudha, *K.* Rudha mór, *M.*

**ruighe**, *a sheiling-ground*—Ruighe mór, *V.* Ruighe fluich, *K.*

Ruighe samhraidh, *S.* Ruigh' a' phollain, *A.*

**ruinn**, *a promontory, ranna*—Rhinns, *I.* Ruinn, *A.*

**rùisgte**, *naked*—Creag rùisgte, *L.*

**sabhal**, *a barn, -ail*; **-al**—Rudh' an t-sabhail, *M.* Achadh nan sabhal, *K.L.*

**sac**, *a sack*—Allt nac sac, *R.*

**sagart**, *a priest, -airt*—Allt an t-sagairt, *J.* Creag an t-sagairt, *L.* Tigh an t-sagairt, *I.* Uamh an t-sagairt, *M.*

**saighead**, *an arrow, saighde*—Leac na saighde, *V.* Saighdean odhara, *M.*

**sàil**, *a heel, -tean*—Rudha nan sàiltean, *M.*

**sàile**, *salt water, sea*; whence **Sàilean** (p. 19).

**saileach**, *see seileach*—Barr saileach, *R.* Salachry = salach + àiridh, *M.R.*

**sail**, *fat, -e*—Port na saille, *M.* Bàrr na saille, *R.*

**salach**, *dirty*—Rudha salach (Shuna). Camus salach, *V.* Airidh-shalach, *I.* Feith shalach, *S.*

**salann**, *salt, -ainn*—Ard an t-salainn, *L.* Port an t-salainn, *K.M.*

**salm**, *a psalm*—Loch nan salm, *L.*

**samh**, *sorrel*—Samhnach, *C.L.V.* Samharaidh, *V.*

**samhail**, **samhladh**, *likeness*—Cnoc an t-samhlaidh, *I.K.* (note).

**samhainn**, *Hallowmas*—Maol na samhna, *M.*

**samhradh**, *summer, -aidh*—Ruighe samhraidh, *S.* Airidh shamhradh, *L.V.*

**sannt**, *greed*; whence **sanntachadh**—Eilean an t-sanntachaidh, *M.*

**saobhaidh**, *a fox's den, -ean*—an t-Saobhaidh, *K.* Sròn na saobhaidh, *P.S.* Cnoc nan saobhaidhean, *V.*

**saod**, *to drive cattle to pasture*—Créag-shaodain, *S.*

**saor**, *a carpenter, saoir*—Bail' an t-saoir, *L.* Tom an t-saoir, *P.* Lochan nigh'n an t-saoir, *A.*

**saor**, *cheap, free*—Saor-pheighinn, *M.* (p. 18).

**sàraich**, *oppress, weary*, **sàrachadh**—Mòine an t-sàrachaidh, *K.*

**Sasunnach**, *an Englishman*, -aich—Port an t-Sasunnaich, *M.*

**seabhag**, *a hawk*, -aige -ag—Allt an t-seabhaig, *S.* Barr na seabhag, *M.*

**sealg**, *a hunt, seilge and sealga*—Barr na seilge, *K.* Cnoc tigh sealga, *J.* Cnoc na seilge, *I.* Torr na sealga, *M.* Druim na sealg, *L.*

**seall**, *look, watch*, **sealladh**, *sight*—Cruach an t-seallaidh, *K.*

**seamrag**, *shamrock*, -aige; **ag**—Cnoc and Cùil nan seamrag, *K.* (note).

**sean**, *old*—Seana-bhaile, *M.* Seana-ghart, *I.*

**seangan**, *an ant*, -ain; -an—Croit seangain, *K.* Sgeir an t-seangain, *V.*

**searrach**, *a foal*, -aich; -ach—Maol an t-searraich, *M.* Cnoc an t-searraich, *C.*

**seilcheag**, *a snail*, -eige; -eag—Cruach na seilcheige, *K.*

**seileach**, *willow*, -ich—Ard-seileach, *P.* Bacan seilach, *M.* Gleann seileach, Coire seileach, *L.* Cnoc an t-seilich, *K.*

**seilisdeir**, *the water-flag, Iris*—Gleann seilisdeir (*Rum*), Camus an t-seilisdeir, *M.*

**seisreach**, *a plough-team*, -iche; -ach—Eilean nan seachd seisreach, *A.*

**sgabh**, *sawdust*—Arinascabhach, *K.* (note).

**sgadan**, *a herring*, -ain; -an—Port an sgadain, *K.* Allt an sgadain, *L.*

**sgarbh**, *a cormorant*, **sgairbh**—Rudha and Creag nan sgarbh, *K.* Biod nan sgarbh, *I.* Creag nan sgarbh, *A.*

**sgait**, *a skate-fish*—Baile-sgait, *M.* Sgait mhór, *C.*

**sgalag**, *a farm-servant*, -aige; -ag—Tom an sgalaig, *L.* Druim nan sgalag, *V.* (p. 42).

**sgàlan**, *a hut, tent (N.)*, -ain—Loch an sgàlain, *M.*

**sgeir**, *a rock in the sea (N.)*—Dubh-sgeir, *K.*

**sgian**, *a knife*, **sgine**—Sgian dubh, Lochan na sgine, *C.*

**sgiath**, *a wing*, **sgeithe**; -an—Sgiath ruadh, *M.* Leac a' sgiathain, *S.* Beinn sgiathaig, *M.*

**sgiolag**, *a sprat, small fish*—Loch nan sgiolag, *R.*

**sgitheach**, *thorn*, -ich—Achadh craobh sgithich, *V.* Achadh na sgitheach, *C.* Loch sgitheig, *J.*

**sgliat**, *slate*, **sgliatach**, *slatey*—Port na sgliata, *J.* Cnoc sgliatach, *L.*

**sgoilte**, *split*—Creag sgoilte, *M.*

**sgoladh**, *sculling*—Cnoc an sgolaidh, *K.* (?) sgoltaidh.

**sgòr**, *a sharp rock*; whence Sgòrnach ruadh, *L.*, and *Adj.* sgorach—Sgeir sgorach, *M.* (note).

**sgrath**, *a turf cut for roofing or covering*, -a; *Adj.* sgrathach—Sgrath mhór, *M.* Lochan sgrathach, Loch na sgratha, *K.*

**sgreag**, *dry*, **sgreagach**, *parched, dried*—Lochan sgreagach, *K.*

**sgreuch**, *a scream*—Maol nan sgreuch, *M.*

**sgriob**, *a scratch, a furrow*, -a—Loch na sgrìoba, *J.*

**sgriodan**, *the stony track of a mountain torrent, or a land-slip*, -ain; -an—an Sgriodan, *M.K.*, and Loch-sgriodain, *M.* Druim an sgrìodain, *A.*

**sguab**, *a sheaf of corn*—Cnoc nan sguab, *A.*

**sgùr**, *see sgòr* (note)—Sgùr Dhomhnaill, *S.*

**sgùlan**, *a wicker-basket*, -ain; -an—Croit an sgùlain and Croit nan sgùlan, *M.* Sgùlan beag and mór, *M.* Dìg an Sgùlain, *S.*

**sian** (p. 94)—Beinn shiant, *A.J.*

**siar**, *west*, *a Motion-to form*; **niar** is *Motion-from*—Siar-loch, *L.* Mul (?) Siar-luich, *E.*

**sìoman**, *a rope of twisted hay or straw*, -ain; -an—Lochan nan sìoman, *A.* Sloc an t-sìomain, *L.*

**sionnach**, *a fox*, -aich—Eilean an t-sionnaich, *S.* Tom an t-sionnaich, *M.* Loch sionnaich, *R.*

**sìos**, *below*—Cnoc a' bhaile shìos, *K.* = *Nether-town.*

**sìth** and **sìthche**, *a fairy*, -ean; **Sìthean** is the *fairy-home*—an Sìthean, *I.L.M.P.* Achadh an t-sìthein, *M.* Sròn an t-sìthein, *S.*

**slaochan**, *a float, sled*—Port an t-slaochain, *M.*

**slat**, *a rod*, **slaite**—Ard na slaite, *C.* Slatrach (p. 64).

**sleagh**, *a spear*; *Adj.* sleaghach; as *Noun*, an t-Sleaghach, *M.V.* Meall and Doire sleaghach, *G.*

**sliabh**, *a mountain-side, mountain*, **sléibhe**—Sliabh mór, *I.* Loch sléibhe, *K.* Tom sléibhe, *M.* Sléibhte coire, *V.*

- slige**, a *shell*; *Adj.* **sligneach**, and as *Noun*, Sligneach, Lochan sligneach, Ardsignish, *A.* Sligreachan, *C.*
- slinndrich** (note)—Tòrr na slindrich, *S.*
- slinnean**, a *shoulder-blade*—Achadh an t-slinnein, *S.*
- slios**, a *flank*, a *mountain-side*—Slios beag, *L.*
- sliseag**, a *shaving*, -eige; -eag—Achadh na sliseig, *K.* Airidh na sliseige, *M.*
- sloc**, a *pit*, *sluic*; *sloc Adj.* **slocach**—Sloc, *M.* Sloc an eich dhuinn, *L.* Sròn and Allt an t-sluic, *G.* Port an t-sluic, *M.* Creag shlocach, *K.*
- sloisneach**, from sloisir, *to swill*—Bàrr sloisneach, *R.*
- sluagh**, a *people*, *sluaigh*—Rudha clais an t-sluaigh, *M.*
- slug**, *swallow*; whence *slugan* and *slugaid*, the *swallow*, the *throat*, *gullet* (*G.*)—Slugan dubh, *M.* Meall an t-slugain, *S.* Slugaid a' chruachain, *M.* Slugaide glas, *I.* Slugan, *L.*
- smeur**, *smiar*, a *bramble-berry*, -an—Dail smeuran, *K.*
- snàmh**, *swim*, and as *Noun*, **snàmh**, **snaimh**—Ard an t-snaimh and Caol an t-snaimh, *C.*
- sneachd**, *snow*, -a—Beinn an t-sneachda, *E.* Glac an t-sneachda, *M.*
- sobhrach**, a *primrose*, -aiche; -ach—Allt nan sobhrach, *A.*
- soc**, a *plough-share*, *snout*, *suic*; whence **Socach** (*G.*)—Socach a' mhaime, *M.* Allt na socaich, *K.*
- soilleir**, *clear*—Tom soilleir, *C.* Leac shoilleir, *A.*
- sorchan**, a *foot-stool*, -ain—Cnoc an t-sorchain, *S.* Cruach an t-sorchain, *S.*
- speireag**, the *sparrow-hawk*, -eige—Cnoc na speireige, *K.* Gleann speireige, *J.*
- speur**, the *sky*, *firmament*—Tigh nan speur, *I.*
- spùt**, a *spout*—an Spùt dubh, *M.*
- srath**, a *strath*—Srath mòr, freq.
- srian**, a *bridle*, **sreine**—Bealach na sréine, *C.* Beinn na sréine, *M.*
- sròn**, a *nose*, *knowe*, **sròine**—Garbh-shròn, *L.* Rudha na sròine, *M.V.* Sròn-doire, *K.* an t-Sròn = Strone, freq.
- sruth**, a *stream*, dim., **sruthan**, -ain—Port an t-sruthain, *I.* Tigh an t-sruthain, *K.* Bodha nan srùlag, *M.*
- stàbull**, a *stable*, -uill—Cnoc stabuill mòr and beag, *K.*



**stac**, a *precipice*, **staic**—Stac nan uan, *L.* Airidh staic, *K.*

Camus an staca, *J.* Allt an stacain, *R.*

**staidhir**, a *stair*—Staidhir chaol, *P.*

**stairsneach** a' phuill, *M.* (note).

**stalla**, a *craggy steep* (*N.*), **-cha**—Stallacha dubha, *A.*

**stang**, a *ditch, pool*—Aird na staing, *S.* Staing mhór, *L.*

**steall**, a *water-shoot, waterfall, still*; **-ean**—Steallan dubha, *A.*

Rudha stilleig, *C.* Steall ùr, *R.* See p. 47.

**stiùir**, *steer, a rudder*, **stiùire**—Innis stiùire, *P.*

**stob**, a *stake*, "*stob*"—Stob liath, *C.* Stob a' chùir, *G.*

**stòr**, a *cliff*, and Eng. *store*, **stòir**—an Tigh-stòir, *L.*

**stùc** (Hill-names)—an Stùc, *C.K.* Stùc bhreac, *K.* an Stùcrach, *C.*

**stùr**, *dust*, or **stùrr** (note)—Ard na stùr, *L.*

**suas**, *up* or *upwards*, **shuas**, *upper*—freq.

**suibheag**, a *raspberry* **-eige**; **-eag**—Rudha an t-suibhein, *M.*

**suidhe**, a *seat, resting-place*—an Suidhe, *M.L.* Cnoc an t-suidhe, *M.S.* Coire an t-suidhe, *C.S.* Bealach an t-suidhe, *K.* Uisg' an t-suidhe, *I.*

**sùil**, the *eye*, **sùla**—an t-Sùil, *C.* Lochan na sùla, *C.M.*

**tacar**, *abundance, plenty*, **-air**—Rudh' an tacair, *K.*

**tàghan**, the *pole-cat*, **-ain**—Leum an tàghain, *V.* Creag an tàghain, *R.*

**taillear**, a *tailor*, **-eir**—Bàgh an tàilleir, *M.* Cruach an tàilleir, *K.* Eas an tàilleir, *A.* Allt an tàilleir, *R.*

**tairbeart** (p. 20), *S.K.J.*

**talamh**, *earth, land*, **talmhainn**—Ard-thalamh, *C.*

**tamhasg**, a "*brownie*," **-aisg**—Creag an tamhaisg, *C.*

**tana**, *shallow, thin*—Loch tana, *K.* Lochan tana, *M.* Lochan an tana, *J.*

**taobh**, a *side*, **taoibh**—Taobh na h-aibhne, *P.* Taobh dubh, *V.*

**taod**, a *halter*, **taoid**—Gort an taoid, *I.*

**tarbh**, a *bull*, **tairbh**; **tarbh**—Allt an tairbh, *M.J.* Creag an tairbh, *L.* Maol an tairbh, *I.* Gleann thairbh, *K.* Tervin, *P.* = an Tairbhein = Tairbh + an.

**tarbhach**, *profitable, fertile*—Baile tarbhach, *I.*

- tàrmachan**, a *ptarmigan*, -ain ; -an—Meall an tàrmachain, *A.*  
Dun-tàrmachan, *L.*
- tarsuinn**, *transverse, across*—Baile tarsuinn, *I.* Druim tarsuinn, *S.* Beinn thrasda, *I.* Tarr-sgeir, *I.* Creag tharsuinn, *C.* (note).
- teanga**, a *tongue*—an Teanga, *M.* Tangy, *K.* Teanga mheadhonach, *G.* Teanga nan allt, *V.*
- teine**, *fire*—Achadh teine, *A.* Beinn theine, *C.* Cnoc an teine, *M.* Aird an teine, *C.P.*
- teith**, *hot*, and **teitheil**—Rudha and River Teitheil, *P.*
- tigh**, a *house*, **tighe**—Tigh bàn, *M.* Cnoc an tighe, *I.*
- tighearna**, a *lord, master*—Meall nan tighearna, *R.*
- tilg**, *throw, shoot*, **tilgidh**—Carn an tilgidh, *C.*
- tiobart**, a *well*, **tiobairt**—Achadh an tiobairt, *L.* Blàr an tiobairt, *K.* Ard an tiobairt, *V.* Port an tiobairt, *J.*
- tiompan**, a *tabor, timbrel*, -ain ; -an—Màm an tiompain, *M.*
- tìr**, *land*, -e—Tìr-Fergus, Cinn-tìre, *K.*
- tobar**, a *well*, -air—Tobar-Mhoire, *M.*
- tobha**, a *tow, rope*, -achan—Cnoc nan tobhachan, *M.* Rudh' an tobhaidh, *K.*
- tobhta**, *turf, a roofless wall*—Dail tobhta, *K.*
- togail**, a *lifting* (note)—Togail bhreaca, *M.*
- toit**, *smoke*, -e—Toit dubh, *K.*—but **doid**, **tobhta**, which see.
- tolm**, a *round, low hillock*, **tuilm** ; *Adj.* **tolmach**—Rudha tolmach, *L.*
- toll**, a *hole*, **tuill**—Uamh an tuill, *J.*
- tom**, a *hillock*, **tuim** ; **tom**—Tom-àrd, *L.* Croit an tuim, *C.*
- tòn**, *the fundament*—Tòn mhòr, *I.* Ton riabhach, *K.*
- tonn**, a *wave*, **tuinn** ; **tonn**—Loch-thonn, *M.*
- torc**, a *boar*, **tuirc** ; **torc**—Tòrr an tuirc, *K.P.* Beinn an tuirc, *K.*  
Allt nan torc, *M.*
- tòrr**, a *round hill*, **tùir** (*G.*)—an Tòrr, *K.* na Torran, *G.*  
Druim nan torran, *S.* na Torrannan, Tòrr-loisg(te), Ceann an tùir, *M.*
- traigh**, *the shore*, **tragha**, **traghad**—Ceann tràgha, *A.I.M.* an Tràigh bhàn, *M.* Traigh gheal, *M.* Gart na tràgha, *I.* Ceann na tràghadh, *I.* Dail na traghad, *P.* Cinn-tragha, *A.*

**tràill**, *a thrall, slave*, tràille—Rudha na tràille, *J.* See p. 139.

**traogh**, *ebb*—Eilean traoghaidh, *K.*

**trasda**, *transverse*—Beinn thrasda, *I.*

**trus**, *gather*, truissealach, *a gatherer*—Rudh' an truissealach, *J.*

**tuagh**, *an axe*, tuaighe—Lochan na tuaighe, *A.*

**tulach**, *a hillock*—Tullich, *L.*

**tunna**, *a vat*—Ard-tunna, *M.*

**uachdar**, *the upper part*, -air; *Adj.* uachdarach—Ceann uachdarach, *J.* Gleann uachdarach, *I.* Bail' uachdarach, Barr uachdarach, *K.*

**uaine**, *green* (note)—Cuil uaine, Lochan uaine, *L.*

**uamh**, *a cave*, uamha; uamh—Aird na h-uamha, *P.* Uamhannan donna, *I.* na h-uamhachan, *I.E.* Sròn uamha, *K.*

**uamhar**, *dread*, -air; ar—Glac uamhar, *M.*

**uan**, *a lamb*, uain; uan—Eilean nan uan, Airidh nan uan, *K.* Stac nan uan, *L.*

**uchd**, *the breast*, and uchdach freq—Uchd nan clach, *I.*

**uileann**, *the elbow*, uilne—an Uileann, *V.* Eilean uilne, *V.*

**uinnseann**, *ash*, -inn—Lag an uinnsinn, *A.* Aird uinnsinn, *V.*

**uisge**, *water*—Dubh uisge, *G.L.*

**ulaidh**, *a treasure*—Bealach na h-ulaidh, *K.* Cnoc na h-ulaidh *I.* Lag na h-ulaidh, *R.* Sgor na h-ulaidh, *P.*

**ùr**, *new*—Bail' ùr, freq. Aoineadh ùr, *J.*

**urchair**, *a shot*, urch'rach—Beinn na h-urchrach, *A.*

**urra**, *an infant, youngster, columnar rock*—Tigh an urra, *I.*

**uruisg**, *a goblin*, "brownie"—Coire an uiruisge, *M.*

## THE NORSE ELEMENTS

THE Norse names in Argyll are hardly ever quite pure. They have come under the Gaelic influence so strongly and for so long that their grammar is now nearly always that of Gaelic, even when they retain their face value almost as clearly as in their beginning. The basis of naming is nearly the same in both languages, namely (1) a descriptive Adjective + the Nominative noun, and (2) a descriptive Genitive + the same, for example, N., **Lang-á**, = *the long river*; Debadal = **djup-r** + **dal-r**, *deep-dale*. The only distinct difference is that whereas Norse puts the descriptive first, Gaelic has it second, except in the older Gaelic forms, such as **Garbh-allt**, *rough-stream*; **Glas-eilean**, *grey-island*; **Muirne-meall**, *the hill of joy or affection*.

I have thought well to give here a very short statement of the Norse noun-declension, because it will enable the novice to get an appreciable understanding of forms which otherwise might be a little perplexing.

Norse nouns are classed as Strong or Weak, according as the gen. sing. ends in a consonant or in a vowel, and there are Three Declensions—with some irregular nouns. There are four Cases: *Nom.*, *Gen.*, *Dat.*, *Acc.*

I. THE STRONG DECLENSION — First (a) *Masc.*

*helm-r*, home, *tið*, tide; (b) Fem. *eið*, isthmus; (c) Neut. *skip*, ship.

- (a) *helm-r*, -s, -i, *heim*; -ar, -a, -um, -a.  
*tið*, -ar, *tið*, *tið*; -ir, -a, -um, -ir.  
 (b) *eið*, -ar, *eið*, *eið*; -ir, -a, -um, -ir.  
 (c) *skip*, -s, -i, *skip*; *skip*, -a, -um, *skip*.

Second—(a) Masc. *fund-r*, discovery; (b) Fem. *nál*, needle; (c) Neut. *klæði*, cloth.

- (a) *fund-r*, -ar, -i, *fund*; -ir, -a, -um, -i.  
 (b) *nál*, -ar, *nál*, *nál*; -ar, -a, -um, -ar.  
 (c) *klæði*, -s, *klæði*, *klæði*; *klæði*, -a, -um, *klæði*.

Third—(a) Masc. *vet-r*, winter; (b) *eik*, oak; (c) none.

- (a) *vet-r*, -ar, -i, *vetr*; *vetr*, -a, -um, *vetr*.  
 (b) *eik*, -ar, *eik*, *eik*; -r, -a, -um, -r.

II. THE WEAK DECLENSION has genitive sing. and plur. in *-a* or *-ja* for the masculine; in *-u* or *-i* for the feminine; sing., or plur., *na*; and in *-a -na* for the neuter.

á (f.) a river, *á-r*; á, frequently terminal in River-names—*Luss-a*, I. J., *Aor-a*, R., *Inbher-ae*, R. It is first in *Ár-oss*, M. The words *aer* (f.), a sheep, ewe, *-ar*; á, ár (f.), an oar, *ar*; *a*, come readily into the first Norse element of *Inbher-aor-á*. *Eyr-r* is almost always, if not altogether, a sea-coast term—*abhainn Ar-aig*, I.

*akkeri* (n.), an anchor *-s*; *-a*, with *sætl*, forms the very common name *Acarsaid*, an anchorage.

*ak-r*, a field, "acre"—*Stor-achd-aig*, I.

**áll** (m.), *an eel*, -s; -a, means secondarily (an eel-like) *channel*, and it has other figurative uses. The sing. occurs in *Alsaig*, I., and the plur. in *Alasgaig* and *Alanish*, M. *Alalaidh*, I., is doubtful. *Allival* (p. 97).

**arm-r** (m.), *a wing, arm*, -s; -a, used fancifully of an *arm* of the sea—a bay, frith, &c.—*Armadaile*.

**arn** = *örn*, *an eagle*—*Earnadale*, J.

**arr** (n.), *a scar*, -s; -a—*Ars-a*, *scar-island*, L., or from *Ari* (m.), *an eagle*—used as Personal name also. *Eara-said*, I.

**ask-r** (m.), *ash*, -s; -a, secondarily, *a spear* (of ash), *a wooden (ash) ship*—whence *aska-spiller*, *a pirate*, “*ship-spoiler*”; *Asknish*, L.; *Askaig* (Port), I.; *Dun-Askain*, M.; *Ascog*, from *ask-r*, + *skog-r*, *the ash-wood*, C. *Askival* (p. 97). *aska* (f.), *ashes*, comes easier into *Asgemal*, J.

**áss** (m.), *a pole, beam*, *áss*; *ássa*, used figuratively for *a rocky ridge*. This is the second element in the Eng. *windlass* = *windle* + *ass*, *winding pole*. A similar word, *ass* (m.) = *Ans*, gen. pl. *æsir*, may easily be mistaken for the first word—in fact, some have said that the words are identical in remote origin. *Asa-bus*, I., *Asa-pol*, M., *As-dail*, J., come by this way. Perhaps *Ashval* (p. 97).

**aust-r**, *east*—*Tostary*, M., with Gaelic *t* of the Art.

**bæli** (n.), *a dwelling, farm*, or even *a den*, or *nest*, is akin to Gael *baile*, *arnar-bæli*, *eagle's nest*; *orms-bæli*, *a serpent's hole*.

**bæ-r** and **by-r**, *homestead, farm, village, town, estate, -jar*; *-ja*. This is the Danish *-by* of English names. *Smerby*, K., = *butter-town*, from N. *smjórr* + *bæ-r*, is the only instance I have met with on the mainland of the county. *Knorrs-baer*, I., is nearer the original form, and *Conisby* = *kon-r* + *by*.

**bak** (n.), *a back*, -s; -a, as Gaelic **bac**—and  
**bakki** (m.), *the bank* (as, of a river), -a; -a—**Dòrnabac**  
 (Rum). **Am Bac**, freq.

**bali** (m.), *a soft grassy bank*, especially if sloping to the shore, -a; -a—**Bals-ay**, I.

**bára** (f.), *a wave*, -u; -na, secondarily, *a waving surface*—**Baradal**, I. **Barapol** (Tiree).

**björk** (f.), *birch*, **bjark-ar**; -a—**Biorgaig**, *birch-wick*.

**bjarg** (n.), *is a precipice*, or seaside rock—**Barkeval** (p. 97).

**bjart-r**, *bright*—**Dùn-bhiordamail** (p. 121).

**björn** (m.), *a bear*, **bjarn-ar**; -a — **Bearnasalg**, I. **Bernera**, P. Coll. **Bearnasgeir**, Tiree.

**blað** (n.), *a leaf*, *a "blade" of grass*, -s; -ja—**Bladda**, J. There is, however, a difficulty, as will be observed, with the sing. gen. in -s, and even with the plural. I prefer therefore to take the Adj. **flat-r**, *flat*, as the base of the name—the same as is found in **Fladda**, L., and in **Pladda**, P., all meaning the same thing, *flat island*, with -ey as -a (p. 132).

**boði** (m.), *a breaker*, "*a boding*," hidden rock. There is a Norse proverb, **vera sem boði á skeri**, said of a restless man, *as a breaker on a skerry*, which shows that the Norse, like the English idea (perhaps secondarily), applies to *the wave* upon it rather than to *the rock* itself. This word is very common, usually written **bogha** (p. 99).

**bol** (n.), *a homestead*, *abode*, -s; -a, combined with **stad-r**, *a stead*ing, it forms **bolstadr**, which has a big place in the Norse names of Argyll and of Scotland, as terminal -bols, -ols, -ol, -bost, -bus, -sta.

**boli** (m.), *a bull*, as in **Bolsa**, I.

**borg** (f.), *stronghold*, *castle*, -ar; -a. Gaelic has assimilated the word in several ways. There is **Burg**

and *Dùn-bhuirg*, M.; *Borrodale*, A.V.; *Borrachail*, *Borochil*, *Boreraig*, I., with *Dùn*, *dal-r*, *fjall*, *vik*. *Borga-dale*, K.M.; *Bourblalg*, A.; *Rudha Boraige móire* (Tiree). *Bail' a' bhorgain*, K.; *Cùl-bhuirg* (Iona). *Beinn-bhuirg*, I. *Arivirig* = àiridh a' bhuirg, *E. Bhoramail* (Coll).

*branna*, a crow, has been given for *Brannabus*, I., but I have not been able to find the word, so I prefer *brenna*.

*braud* (n.), food, living, "bread," secondarily, a parsonage, in the Eng. sense of a "living." In *Brosdale*, for example, *bro*, a bridge, is impossible, because the word is fem. and would give a gen. in *-ar*; and for a similar reason *brokk-r* (m.), a badger, cannot enter into the name, but *brok* (n.), bad, black grass is perhaps the most direct word. It was used by the Norse in their home-names, for instance, Brokey (*Land*).

*brenna* (f.), a fire, burning—*Brannabus*, *Brianabus*, I.

*brún* (f.), eye-brow, land-brow, "brae," *-ar*; *-a*—*Brun-erican*, K. (p. 25). This is the only instance in the county of this name-word.

*kál* (n.), cabbage, "kale"—*Caulabus*, I., or, better, *kald-r*, cold, as in *Callart* (p. 11) and in *Callanish* and many other names.

*kalf-r* (m.), a calf, *-s*; *-a*, used fancifully of a small island, or island-rock, which is close to or "calf" to another and larger island. It comes into Gaelic as *Calbh*, gen. *Cailbh*, and it occurs frequently—the Calf of Man, an *Calbh Muileach*, &c.

*kappal* (m.), a horse, nag—*Keppols*, I. *Ceapasaidh* (p. 146), or from *kepp-r*, a stick.

*ketill* (m.), a kettle, cauldron. The word comes largely into the early rites and religion of the Norse



people for reasons that cannot be here gone into (but see Cleasby *in voc.*). We find the word now softened down to *kel* and *kil* at the end of Personal names—**Leth-Thorkil**, M.; **Aharacle**, A.—both which names are based on the name **Torquil** = **Thor's Ketill**, and the name MacAskil = **Ans** + **Ketill**. Aharacle is **Ath-Thorcuil**, *T's ford*.

**kið** (n.), *a kid*, gen. **kidja**—**Ard-chiavaig**, I.

**kinn** (f.), *a chin, cheek, -ar; -a*, in **Kinnabus**, **Kinnabols**, I., with which may be compared the Gaelic body-names, **aodann**, *face*; **bràigh**, *chest*; **meill**, *chin*, &c. **Kyna**, *a queen* (see **kona**), may, better perhaps, come into **Kynagarry**, **Kinnabus**, I.

**kirkja** (f.), *a church, -ju; -na* — **Kirkapol**, **Circenis**, (Tiree). **Girgadal**, A.I.

**Kjallar** (m.) is a poetical name of Odin—**Collabus**, I.

**kjarr** (n.), *a copse-wood, brush-wood*—**Carradale**, K.A. **Carrabus**, I. In Norse home-names **kjarr-skogr** is for *a brush-wood*. **Carsaig**, I.K.M. **Cara**, K. **Carrisdale** (p. 101).

**kjöl-r** (m.), *a keel, -ar; a keel* simply, secondarily used of a keel-shaped hill, or island. **Kjóll** (m.) is a "keel" in the sense of *ship*, or *barge*, &c.—**Kelsay** and **Celsa**, I.

**klett-r** (m.), *a cliff, crag*, comes into Gaelic as **a' Chleit**, which is a very common name.

**knap-r** (m.), *a knob* (p. 34), frequent in Gaelic as an **Cnap**.

**kolla** (f.), *a hind, horn-less deer*, and **koll-r** (m.), *a hill, summit*. To the former I refer **Coll-a** (p. 122), to the latter **Coll(o)s-a** (Colonsay), although this last is not quite clear. **Collabus**, I.

**kon-r** (m.), *a "king," nobleman*, and **kona** (f.), *a queen*. The former is in **Conlsby**.

**korn** (n.), *grain, corn* — **Cornaig**, M., Tiree, &c. **Cornabus**, I.

**korp-r** (m.), *a raven*. I have wondered whether this may not be after all the base in the name Corpach. I have noticed a strong disposition towards *raven*-names in the Lochaber Corpach, and I have some difficulty in accepting the explanation given at p. 14.

**kött-r** (m.), *a cat*, **katt-ar**—**Cattadal**, I.K.

**krá** (f.), *a neuk, "corner"*—**Crarae**, R.; **Craro**, p. 33.

**kráka** (f.), *a crow*—**Cragabus**, I. There is also **krákr** (m.), *a crow*.

**kria** (f.), *the tern*—**Crionaish**.

**krýsi** (f.), *a cross* — **Crishnish**, M. N. **krýsi-vik**, *cross-Bay*.

**kross** (m.), *a cross*, and as Adj. *across*—**Crossaig**, K. **Crossapol** in Coll, Tiree, I., &c. **Carsamull**, Tiree.

**kuldi** (m.), *cold*—**Cullipol**, p. 64; **Cullinish** (Tiree); **Coulabus**, I.

**kvi** (f.), *a pen, fold*—**Kvidale**, **Ard-Chiavaig**, I. **Quinish**, M. **Quiabol** was *milking place*, and **Qui-á**, *pen-isle* in old N. **kviga**, *a heifer* = **Cicheamaig** (p. 129).

**dal-r** (m.), *a dale, valley*, **-ar**; **-a**, a very common terminal in Valley-names.

**Dan** (m.), *a Dane*—**Danna**, *Danes' isle*.

**deigja** (f.), *a dairymaid*, or the same form and gender means *a damp, or wetness*—**Degnish**, L.

**djup-r**, *deep*—**Dibidill** (p. 97), *deep-dale*. **Debadal**, J.

**drit** (n.), *dirt*, or, better, **drífa** (f.), *sleet*—**Driodale**, I.

**dý** (n.), *mud, a bog*—**Doodil**, I. **Diseig**, M.

**dýr** (n.), *a deer, wild beast*, **-s**; **-a**, e.g. **dýrs-horn**, *the horn of a deer*; **dyra-garðr**, *an enclosure for wild beasts*—**Diùra** (p. 132). **Diùrinnis**, P.

**dýs** (f.) is a *cairn* smaller than a *haugr*—*Diseig*, M.

**egg** (f.), an *edge, ridge*, -*ar*; -*a*—**Eige** (p. 98).

**eið** (n.), an *isthmus*, does not seem to appear often in Argyll names now, but Kintyre was *Satiris-eið* in the Orkney Saga. It is terminal -*ay*, freq.

**eik** (f.), an *oak*, -*ar*; -*a*—*Élgneig*, V. Glen-*eikadale*, I.

**eld-r** (m.), *fire*—*Ellabus*, I. *Ellary*, K. *Elleraig* (Coll.).

**elg-r** (m.), an *elk*, -*ar*; -*a*—*Elgadal*, A. *Elligeir*, V., and freq. is in many cases Gaelic (*note*).

**endi** (m.), *the end*—*Ensay*, M.

**enni** (n.), *the forehead*. It is used in old Norse in exactly the same sense as *aoineadh* (p. 12), a *brow, steep crag, precipice*, freq. *Inagart*, M.

**epja** (f.), *cold, chilliness*—*Ebadail*.

**erg** (n.) seems to be Gaelic *àirigh*, a *shieling*, borrowed into Norse. It appears terminal as -*ary* freq. *Errald* and *Erray*, M. *Earrabus*, I.

**ey** (f.), an *island*, -*ar*; -*a*, common terminal as -*a* in Island-names—*Bols-a*, *Jur-a*, *Lung-a*, *Ulv-a*, *Kerrar-a*, &c.

**eyrr** (f.), *gravel-bank, "ore"*—*Eorabus*, *Eornaig*, I. *Eorsa*, M. *Eirisgeir* (p. 129). *Eriska* (p. 69).

**fausk-r** (m.), is a *dry log dug out of the earth*, and knowing how slight and fanciful a cause may be the origin and base of a name, this is quite likely in *Fascadal*, K.A.; or perhaps **fæxi** (m.), a *horse*, is even better; therefore *horse-dale*. It seems to me quite impossible to be sure of the essential in Norse names where more than one base is equally possible.

**fjall**, a *hill, mountain, "fell,"* -*s*; -*a*, and its kindred **hvall** (m.), of the same meaning, occur terminally as

-bhal, -mal, -val, and -al, very frequently. It is difficult, without full local knowledge, to distinguish between this terminal and that from *voll-r*, a *field*. *Fealasgaig* (p. 111); *Vaul* (p. 127).

*fjara* (f.), the *ebb-tide*, *beach*—*Feoirlin*, frequently.

*fjörð-r* (m.), a *frith*, "*fjord*," occurs terminally as -art, -ort—*Suain-eart*, S. *Grùin-eart*, I., and frequently. See p. 10.

*fjós* (n.), a *cow-byre* (*fé*, cattle + *hús*)—*Fishnish*, M. *Fishaig*, *Feshim* (Coll.).

*fisk-r* (m.), a *fish*, -s; -a—*Fiskarg* (Coll.)—*Fiska-poll-r*, a *fish-pool*, *Fiska-skip*, a *fish-ship*, occur in N. names.

*flat-r*, *flat*—*Bladda*, J. *Fladda*, J.M. *Pladda* (Lis.). *Flatey*.

*flóð*, a "*flood*," *deluge*, *avalanche*, the *sea*, *tide*—*Flod-sgeir* (Eigg), and there is *Flúð* (f.), *low skerries*, or *reefs* flooded at full tide (p. 151).

*forn*, *old*—*Fornasaig*, I., the *forn* + *hús* + *vík*, the *old house-bay*. *Forningir* (p. 127).

*fors* (m.), a *rushing current*, *waterfall*. Compare *fors* (m.), *force*—*Glen-fors-á*, M., the *glen of the rushing river*. *Acha-fors*, the *field of the water-fall*, V. *Eas-fors* (p. 120).

*frakki* (m.), a *Personal name*, and *frakka* (n.), a *spear*, come into *Frachdale*, I. *Frachadil*, M. *Fracadal*, I. *Frackersaig* (Lis.). It is likely that *Frakki* was the *spearman*, but *sleaghach*, *claidheamh*, &c., show that the name may have come by the same imagining, or as a translation.

*fyrta*, to *gush* or *rush*, akin to *Fors*, would well explain *Loch-frissa*, M., but there is no river sufficiently of that character flowing into the loch. The next best word is *frjosa*, to *freeze*, and this is perhaps the correct attri-

butive. **Fress** (m.) is a *tom-cat*, and streams are often named upon the cat.

**galm-r** (m.), *the roar of the sea*—**Galmisdale** (Eigg). **Gleann galmadale**, V. There is a fem. noun, **galma**, of the same meaning, from which **galma-dale** would come more directly. This last is only used in place-names, and **Gamli** (m.), *an eagle*, is quite possible.

**gard-r** (m.), a "*yard*," *court, enclosure, stronghold*—**Gardamail**, J. (Col.). **Garrisdale** (Canna), J.I. **Abhainn-ghárdail**, V.

**gás** (f.), *a goose*—**Guesdale**, K. **Geasgil**, M.

**gata** (n.), *a path*, so in **Horsgate**, A., it is better to look upon the name as this word with **hross**, *a horse*, although the meaning remains the same, in the sense of *horse-gate*; as the proverb has it, "*gang yer gate*" = go your way.

**geil** (f.), *a small, narrow glen*, with a stream running in the bottom, is the Norse rendering, and the perfect picture of the north of England *ghyll*. A "cut" of a hundred yards or so, down the face of a "moor," with its necessary trickle of a stream at the bottom, is the **gell** or **gil** (p. 156) idea, as left in the Yorkshire district by the Norseman. **Allt na Gile**, J., is the purest example of the acceptance of the word into Gaelic names that I have met with. **Giol**, I.

**gerði** (n.), *an enclosure, fenced field*, akin to **gard-r**—**Gart na geàrrach**, K.

**gja** (f.), *a rift, chasm*—**Gigha** (p. 32). **Gigalum** (p. 33).

**gjögr** (f.), *a rift, cleft*—**Gìùir-bheinn**, I. **Gìùirdil** (Rum).

**gnípa** (f.), *a peak*—**a' Ghrip**.

**got** (n.), *spawning*, and **gota** (f.), of same meaning,

may be a better and more pertinent meaning for Gott Bay than that which I have given (p. 127), but there are other possible renderings. Gaut-ar (pl.) was a Scandinavian people from Western Sweden, and there is no reason at all why this Bay might not have been named upon them. Their own *Gaut-land*, or Gothland, is corroboration of this. They would do it exactly on the same lines as our people would say *Camus nan Gall*, the Bay of the strangers. *Gaut-r* is a poet-name for Odin.

*gölt-r* (m.), a boar, a hog's back, a ridge, -s; -a—*Cùil-ghaltro*, K. *Allt-ghaltraig*, C.

*grænn* and *grund*, green—*Grainell*, green field, I.

*grár*, grey—in two *Greasamall* (island-rocks—Tiree).

*gras* (n.), grass, herbage—*Grastle*, I.

*grím-r* (m.), a name of Odin (from *gríma* (f.), a hood, or cowl), because the god went about in disguise. *Grimr* was the serpent of old Norse poetry—*Grímsa*, I. *Grim-sary* (Coll).

*grís* (m.), a pig—*Grishnish*, M. *Grísipol* (Coll).

*gróf* (f.), a pit, hollow, "gravel"-pit, -ar; -a—*Grobols*, I.

*grunn-r*, shallow; *grunn-r* (n.), a shallow; *grun-r*, a shoal; *grunn-r* (m.), the ground, the bottom of the sea; *grün*, grain—from one or other of these come *Grun-dal*, J.; *Grüneart*, and (perhaps) *Grianaig* = *grænn* + *vik*, I.; *Greensay*, *Greineal*, M.

*grýla* (f.), ogre, hag, + *lind*. I prefer this now, especially for a stream-name (see p. 152)—*Groulin*, A.I.

*grýta* (f.), a stone, "grit"; *grýtt-r*, stoney—*Groudle* (p. 95).

*gunn-r* (f.), battle, war, fight—*Gunna* (Coll.)—evidently a reminiscence of some severe day.

**Háco** (m.)—**Cladh Haco**, I. *Bol A(r)cain*, V.—doubtful.

**hæli** (n.), *shelter*—**Heylipol** (Tiree), where *-pol* = *bol*, *farm, steading*.

**háf** (n.), *the sea, the main*—**Camus an t-half**, given in Gaelic as **C. an t-saimh** (p. 131).

**hall-r**, *sloping*, with **t** of the Gaelic Art., seems to be in **Tallatol**, K.; **Tallasgeir** (p. 99).

**halm-r** (m.), *weeds, straw, sea-weed*—**Haum**, M. In Eigg it is **Talm**, with the **t** of Gael. Art.—**an t-Halm**, and **E. Thailm**.

**há-r**, *high*—**Airidh an ha-bost** (Coll.). **Tallant**, I., = **an t-har-land**; **Hanais** (p. 127).

**haug-r** (m.), a "*howe*," *cairn*—**Rudha-** and **Baile-Hogh** (Coll.). **Ard na hùgha**, **Oa**, I. **Ard(t)oe**, A.

**hauk-r** (m.), a *hawk*—(**T**)**ocamal** and **Tackamal**, I.

**hasl** (m.), *hazel*—**Haslam** (Canna) = **hasl** + **hólm-r**.

**hju** (n.), a *house, household*, and **híð**, a *den, lair*—**Hianish** and **Hynish** (Tiree).

**hóll** (m.), a *hill*—**Rossal**, M. (**hross** + **hóll**).

**hólm-r** (m.), an *island*, "*holm*" occurs terminally as **-am**, **-om**, **-um**—**Haslam** (p. 101). **Solum**, I. **Salum** (p. 127).

**hóp** (n.), a *bay*—**an t-Òban** (Oban). **Tigh an òb**, K.

**hrís** (n.), *brushwood*—**Risabus**, I. **Risdal**, L. **Reisapol**, S.; but in the latter **hreyisi** (n.), *den, lair*, is perhaps better, although the circumstances fit the other rendering well. I am not confident in placing **Risga**, A., under this base.

**hross** (n.), a *horse*—**Horsgate**, A., &c. See **holl**. **Rossdal**, M.

**hús** (n.), a *house*—**Uisead**, K., = (**hús** + **set-r**). **Oisneis**, I., = (**hús** + **nes**).

**íma** (f.), *a she-wolf, a giantess*, and **imċ** (f.), *an ogress*, perhaps from the first idea of the grey or ember-colour of the she-wolf, and the character of the she-wolf again referred to the ogress. See *ýmir*, p. 242.

**íór** (m.), *a horse*, is better for **Eorsa**, M., and perhaps for **Eorabus**, I., than that given (*Eyrr*, p. 227).

**Ívaar** (m.), from which the Mac-Ivers of the West, is a pure N. name, perhaps derived from *yfa*, *to struggle*.

**lág-r**, *low* — **Làga**, A., = *low island*. **Laig** (Eigg) = *low-wick*. **Rudha Luidhneis**, I. **Leoig**, I., is doubtful.

**lamb** (n.), *a lamb, -s; -a*—**Drum-Iemble**, K., = *lamb-fall, lamb-hill*. **Lamanais**, **Lamedail**, I.

**land** (n.), *land*—**Tallant**, I., = *an t-há-r-land, the high land*.

**lang-r**, *long*—**Langa**, K.I. = *long-Water*; **Langanish** (Canna), *long-ness*. **Langadale**, I. **Langamul**, M. **Langgal**, A., = *longtown, or farm*. **Longbaw**, I., is probably a folk-rendering of *Long-town (-bol)*.

**laut** (f.), *a pasture, hollow ground*—in **Laudal**, V. **Laug**, *a spring of water*, or **lauf** (n.), *leaf*, are possible. I know the place well, and I am not able to select from these—it fits them all. This once again shows the danger of being too sure.

**leidċ** (f.), *way, road*, or **leidċ-r**, *loathed*—in **Leidil**, L.

**leir** (m.), *loam, clay* — **Lyrabus** and **Lurabus** I.M. This is the meaning usually given, but I prefer **lja** (f.), *mown grass*, which gives the names perfectly, especially the first, and so well befits *Ìle ghlas an fheadair*. **Leora** and **Leorin**, I., come under these, but for **Leoig** I am afraid to suggest **leó** (m.), *a lion*, + *vík*, the best rendering, although the animal comes into the home names of Norse—otherwise **ljá**, *mown grass*, almost certainly.



**lið** (n.) is (1) *a ship* (cf. A.S. **lið**, *a fleet*); (2) *folk, a people*, would do for **Liddesdale**, V., but **hlið**, *a gate*, comes even better into the pronunciation. **Hlið**, *a side*, or *a mountain side*, would be more pertinent to the circumstances, but being fem., it seems to me impossible—it would not give the *s*. **Librig** (Tiree) seems to contain this with the gen. of **-berg**.

**lín** (n.), *flax*—in **Lindsaig**, C.

**lind** (f.), *a well, spring*—**Linndail**, J. **Grulin** and **Feoirlin**, freq.

**ljoss**, *bright, light, clear, shining*, seems to be the base in the river-names—**Abhainn-Lussa**, *Lussa-given*, in J. and in **Lussa**, K.I. The name is always short, so that **Lýr**, gen. *lys* (f.), Lat. *gadus* (fish), is not acceptable. For the peculiar name **Lussa-given** the only explanation that appears to me at all possible is that it is, by some strong outside influence, **Lussa(dh)avin**, that is, **Luss-á** + Gaelic **abhainn**, a simple repetition and translation of the river-terminal—in the first part Norse, in the second Gaelic. **Ljosa-vatn**, *bright-water*, occurs in N. names.

**ljösg-a** (f.), *a chestnut-mare*—**Leasgamal**, J.

**lög** (n. pl.), *laws*; therefore, **Lög-maðr**, *lawman*, = Lamont, Gael. **Laomain**. **Cnoc-Laomain**, L.

**lyng** (m.), *heather*, "*ling*"—**Ling**, M. There is a poetical N. word **lung**, *a ship*, which is looked upon as an assimilation from Gaelic **long**—**Lung-a**, M.J.

**maena**, *to project, jut out*, whence **mæna** (f.), *the spine*; **mænr** (m.), *the ridge of a house*—**Ard-menish**, J. **Minis-hall** (Rum).

**már** (m.), *the sea-mew*—**Marasdal**, I. **Marsamal**, J. **Morinish**, M.

**mel-r**, *sand-bank*, especially if covered or bound by

"bent-grass," or more correctly the "sea-reed" (*Psamma, Gram.*), called also "mat-weed"—all because it mats and binds the sand—*Melbhach*, M.

*merg-r*, narrow; *mörk* (f.), a march, border-land, forest—*Margadale*, I. *a' Mhargach* (Rum). *Marg-monagach*, K.

*miki* (older *myk-r*) (f.), indeclinable, dung, "muck"—*Migerness*, I.

*mór* (m.), a moor, heath, barren land, gen. *mójs*—*Mós(s)geir*, M. *Moð-r* is used of a heap of snow and ice jutting into the sea.

*muli* (m.), a jutting crag, a snout, Mull, -a; -a—*Maol Chinntire*, the Mull of Kintyre. This is always a sea-coast name, and has little or nothing to do with Gael. *maol*, bald, often used as a name for round inland mountains.

*munk-r* (m.), a monk—*Mungasdal*, V., and perhaps *Muasdale*, K., but I think *mús* (f.), a mouse, is more likely in *Mùsdal*, R., and Eilean *Mhùsdil* (Lis.).

*mý* (n.), a midge, gnat, -s; -a, or *mjó-r*, small, narrow—*Ard-mynish*, K. *Achadh Mhinish* (Gigha). *Mibost* (Coll.). *Mudle*, V. *Mishnish*, M. *Musdale*, P. *Mý-vatn* (Icel.).

*naust* (n.), a sheep-shed, boat-house, shed—*Nostalq*, I.

*nes* (n.), a "ness," nose, naze, Point—*Ard-nish*, I. *Crinish*, *Mishnish*, *Quinish*, *Trishnish*, M., and freq.

*nidri*, "nether," lower—*Nerrabols*, *Nereby*, *Nerabus*, I.

*oðr*, a wood, woody; *orr* (n.), a scar, notch; *órn* (m.), an eagle, gen. *arnar*; -a, and *óron* (m.), a mackerel, occur in *Loch-Orodale*, K. *Orsay*, I. *Oronsay* (perhaps), V. (Coll.) and (Col.). For this last name *Orfiris-ey* has been

given by Prof. MacKinnon as said of islands which are only islands at full tide, and the fact usually fits.

**ógn** (f.), *dread, terror*, or **ón** (f.), *hope*—**Ona**, L.

**ok** (n.), *a yoke*, may be in **Ockle**, A. The first syllable is very strongly aspirated—I think too strongly for **hawk-r**, *a hawk*.

**Olaf** (m.), the Proper name Olave—Bail' Ola, **Olis-tadh**, I. **Olosary** (Ulva). Dun-**Ólla**, L. (Dunolly), presents one or two difficulties. It is usually accepted to mean Olaf's stronghold, but there is (1) a difficulty in that the vowel sound of Gaelic is **ó** short, not **ò**, as in the name and in the places named upon it; (2) the "Annals of Ulster" has it that Ecfred of Northumbria *combussit Dun-Ollaigh*, A.D. 686, long before the accepted Norse Invasion, and "Tighearnach" has, A.D. 714—*Dun-Onlaig construitur apud Selbacum*. This Sealbhach was son of Fearchar Fada, and a brave man, chief of the Cineil Loarn, who died A.D. 697—*Ferchar Fota moritur*.—*Tigh*. It follows, therefore, either that the Annals are not reliable, or that the name is not from Olaf—a purely Norse name—or that the Norseman was here long before the historical invasion, which is not at all improbable.

**org** (n.), *a howling, screaming*; or better, **orri** (m.), *a moorfowl*; (2) a Personal name, **Orri**; (3) *a fight*—**Orval** (Rum). **Orisgeir** (Tiree). **Oragaig**, K.

**orm-r** (m.), *a snake, "worm," -s*; **-a**—**Ormsary**, K., = **Orms-gardr**. **Ormsaig**, A.L.M. **Olmsa** (Col.) seems to be the same as **Ormsa**, J. **Ormaig**, M.R. **Ormadal**, C. Dun-**Ormidale**, L. **Tormisaig** and **-dale**, I., with the effect of the Gael. Art. **an t-Ormsaig**.

**ósp** (f.), *the aspen-tree*—**Ospidal**.

**ósk-r** (n.), *roaring, bellowing*, as a bull—**Allt-Easga-dail**, V., which is very appropriate. **Esknish**, R.

**óss** (m.), *the outlet of a river or lake*—**Àros**, M. **Osa-mail**, I. **Osnish**, I., but see **hús**.

**oxi** (m.), *an ox*. It is used for a proper name, as **ulf-r** is, but it seems to have got forced into the Gaelic form in **Oskamal**, M., *ox-hill*.

**papi** (m.), "*papa*," *priest*, "*pope*"—**Papadil** (Rum). **Prest-r** is also *priest*, but the **persa** in **Persabus**, I., I have not met, and this is most likely a Gaelic rendering. **Pearsa**, *a parson*, of an older N. form in the first part, but retaining the N. **-bus**.

**poll-r** (m.), *pond, pool*, is the same as Gael. **poll** in meaning and origin. It is a very frequent terminal, but it must be distinguished carefully from **-bol**, which sometimes becomes **-pol**—**Loch-Asapol**, M. Pollachie, M. (perhaps better as Gael. **poll-ach-aidh**). **Vasapol** (Tiree). **Cnoc-Bhircepol** (gen. of **Borg-r** + **poll-r**).

**prúd-r**, *fine, magnificent*, I venture to offer as base of Proaig, I. Mr. Macneill says it is N. **breiðr**, *broad*, + **vík**, but this does not come easily, and I am quite sure he will not object to my rendering, whether correct or not.

**rá** (f.), *a roe*; **rá** (f.), *a nook*; **reyr-r** (m.), *a cairn*; **reyr-r**, the common *river-reed*, **-ar**; **-a**; **rór**, *calm, quiet*; **reyð-r** (f.), *a trout*—one or other come into many names, but local knowledge and observation is necessary to determine which, in **Rarey**, **Raireig**, M.

**rakki** (m.), *a dog*; **-a**; **-a**—**Racadal**, K. (p. 36). There is **rakki**, *straight*, **rak-r**, *damp*, and **hrak**, *poor, wretched*, any one of which is possible from the language side. The pertinent fact only in the place can make sure.

**rang-r**, "*wrong*," *awry*—**Rangal** (Rum), meaning the *awry field*, with reference to the lie of the land.

**rani** (m.), *a hog's snout, hog-backed hill*. This seems to

be the base element in Glenramskil, which appears to be an error for Glen-*ranis-gil*. If not this, it must be from *ram*, *strong, swift*, referring to its stream.

*raud-r*, *red*—*Robols*, I. *Rudale*, K.R. *Reudle*, M., are all, I think, from this word.

*regn* (n.), *rain*—*Rainberg*, J., *rain-hill*. This is the only true instance I have met of terminal *-berg*, the general name in Teutonic speech for a mountain, but in N. it seems to have been limited to *a rock* or even a steep rock like *a stalla* (p. 239).

*reynir* (m.), *the rowan tree*—*Rhonadale*, K. *Raonapol* (Rum). *Raonasta*, I. *Ruinsival* (Rum)—though this is doubtful. *Rúni* (m.), *friend, counsellor*, is quite possible for this latter name.

*salli* (m.), *refuse of hay, &c.*, left by cattle + *haug-r*, in *Saligo*, I.

*salt* (n.), *salt*—*Saltaig* (Tiree) = *salt-wick*.

*sand-r* (m.), *sand*—*Sanday* (Canna), *Sanna*, A., are for *sand* or *sandy island*. *Sandaig* (Tiree), *Sannaig*, I.J., are *sandy-wick* or bay. Inbher-*Sanda*, G. Glen-*Sanda*, V., are the *sandy river*. *Saddel*, K., is for *sandy dale*. The second elements being *-ey*, *island*, *-vík*, *bay*, *-á*, *river*, *-dal-r*, *dale*.

*sauð-r* (m.), *a sheep*—*Soa* (Tiree, Coll). *Soy* (Coll) is *sheep-isle*. *Sosdaig*, L. Soroba, L., can only be referred to *Sorg* (f.), *sorrow*, for some remote reason.

*skalli* (m.), *a bald head*, extended to *a headland*, and *skáli* (m.), *a sheiling, shed*—Sgallanish, J.M.V. (Coll). *Sgallasalg* (Col.). *Sca(n)llstle*, I. *Scallastle*, M. And knowing the Norse tendency to name places upon animals, *skolli* (m.), *a fox*, is to be kept in mind, and even *skel* (f.), *a shell*, freq. in names.

**skamm-r**, *short*—**Scammadal**, S.R.J.

**skári** (m.), *a young seamew*. **Scarrabus**, I. **Scarrinish** (Tiree). **Scarrisdale**, M.

**skatt-r** (m.), *a tax, "scat," tribute*—**Inbher-scat-dale**, G.

**skeið** (f.), *a ship, war galley*—**Ard-skeinish** (Coll), or **skeif-r**, *askew, aslant*. **Skeidar-á**, *galley-river*, is in old N.

**sker** (n.), *a skerry*, is a very common name for sea-rocks which are covered at high tide. I have no explanation to offer for the inland names into which this word enters, like **Skeroblin**, K. **Skerrols**, I.

**skiki** (m.), *a narrow belt or strip of land*, usually terminal, as **-sgaig**. **skagi** (m.), *a ness, Point*—**Alasgaig**, M.

**skip** (n.), *a ship, -s; -a*—**Skipness**, K. = *skipa* + *nes*. **Sgiobanish** (Col.). **Sgiba** = *Shipton*, the old name for Port Charlotte, I. **Skible**, K., is of the same meaning.

**skjól** (n.), *shelter*—**Eilean Scoull**, C.

**skoða**, *to view, look-out, "scout."*—**Scodaig**, R. **Airidh-sgodnish**, K.

**skog-r** (m.), *a wood*—**Ascog**, C. = *ask-ar* + *skogr*, the *Ash-wood*.

**skriða** (f.), *a landslip*, whence Gael. **sgrìdan**, of the same meaning, frequent—Loch **Sgrìdain** and **Sgrìdhinn**, M. A kindred word, **skriði** (m.), is that in **Scresort** (Rum).

**skrinne-r** (f.), *the brown gull*—**Scrinadal**, J.

**skurd-r** (m.), *a monster, portent, phenomenon*—**Sgaoir-shall** (Rum).

**seil** (f.), *a string*. I am afraid to refer the river Seile to this base, although I can see nothing against it but a kind of history which is daily becoming more doubtful to me. The same with respect to **Loch-iall**. I cannot see any explanation at all of the name but the simple Gael. *iall*, *a thong*, which seems to be appropriately

fanciful. There is old **iall**, *a flock of birds*, which, so far as language is concerned, might fit, but it is not readily acceptable. In old documents it is given as **Loch-etle**, from which the name comes easily, but I cannot suggest a clear meaning from this form.

**set-r** (n.), *a residence, "seat," holding*—**Acarsaid**, freq. is made up of **akkeri** + **set-r**. **Saet-i** (f.), also of same meaning. **Earasaid**, l., may be **Ari** + **setr**, *the residence of Ari* (p. 222).

**sgora** (f.), *"score," notch*—**Sgorinnis** (Coll), but there is here the possibility of the name being Gaelic. This is the same word as **Sgòrr** (p. xiv.).

**sjá-r** (m.), *the sea*—**Shira**, R. = **Sjar-á**, *sea-river*. **Shiaba**, M. = *sea town*.

**sjón** (f.), *sight*; a sighting or watching-place—**Shùna**, C.P.R. = *the watching isle*. **Shùn-bheinn**, l. = *the watching hill*.

**smá**, *small, little*—**Smaull**, l. = **Smá** + **(bh)ol**, *Littleton*—preferable here to **smáli**, *small-cattle, sheep*.

**smjör** (n.), *butter, fat*—**Smerby**, K. = *Butter-ton*. There is **Beinn-ime** and **Drochaid-ime** at the upper end of Loch Lomond conveying the same idea in Gaelic—*butter-Ben* and *Butter-bridge*. The terminal **-by** (**bae-r**) is not at all common. It is Danish rather than Norse. Frequent in the North and East of England. There are only a few instances in Argyll.

**snjó-r** (m.), *snow*—**Snoig** (Tiree), *snow-Bay*.

**stakk-r** (m.), *a "stack," precipice*—**Airidh-stalc**, K.

**staða** (f.) and **stað-r** (m.), *a steading, farm, homestead*.

See **Bot**.

**staf-r** (m.), *a "staff," a columnar, steep, rock*—in **Staff-á** for evident reason, and in **Staffnish**, K. **Dunstaffnish**.

**stalli** (m.), *a heathen altar*, is secondary to **stall-r** (m.),

a *block*, or rather a *ledge of rock*—**Stallacha-dubha**, A., with strong Gaelic infection (p. 94). **Creacha-stal** (Tiree).

**steinn** (m.), a *stone*—possible always in such names as **Staoinisha**, **Staoiniseig**, &c.

**stjarna** (f.), a *star*, and **Stjórn**, “*steer-age*,” *order, rule*, might be in Loch **Stornoway**, K., but with much prejudice towards **Stjórn-ar** + **Vog-r**, *bay, creek*, “*voe*.”

**stokk-r** (m.), a *stock, block*—Glen **Stockadale**, P.

**stór-**, *great*—**Stor-achdaig**, I.

**straum-r** (m.), a *stream, current*—**Stremnish**, I.

**súla** (f.), the *gannet*, “*solan*”-goose — **Solum**, I. If, however, the base has the long sound **sól** (f.), the *sun*.

**sunna** (f.), the *sun*, and **sunne**, Adv., *south*, are from the same source, and in the first sense they are of the same meaning. The *south* to the Norseman was, and is, the *sun*—at its best—**Sunadal**, K. **Sunapol**. **Beinn Thunagaraidh** (Th for Sh), M.

**svart-r**, *black*—**Suardail**, A.

**sveinn** (m.), a *boy, lad*, secondarily a proper name, Sveinn, as in **Suaineart** = *Sweyn's fiord*. **Suaineport**, A. Loch-Sweyn, K., but see p. 136.

**tangi** (m.), a *tongue of land*—**Tangy**, K. Rudha **Thangairidh**, p. 99. Rudha na **Tangaidh**, I. The Gael. **teanga** of kindred origin and of the same meaning might be as pertinently offered in these names.

**Thorkil** is a personal name = *Thor's kettle*. The name comes from a rite of the old Norse religion—the *kettle*, or a vessel so named, being a vessel put to sacred use. We have the name personally in Aharcle, A. = **Àth-Thorcull**, *Torquil's ford*, and in M. as **Leth-Thorcull**, *T.'s half* (of land).

**Thórr** (m.), the god *Thor*—**Torrlsdale**, K. = *Thorr's*



*dale*. **Torsa**, R. = *Thor's island*. **Camus-tòrsa**, A. **Ard-Tòr-nish**, I.V. **Toradal**, **Torrabols**, I. **Torosay**, M.

**topt** (f.), "*toft*," a "*green*," *garth*, *croft*—perhaps the same as Gael. **doid**, a *croft*, *holding*—**Toit-dubh**, K., the *black-toft*.

**torfa** (n.), *turf* in **Torrabols**, I., or **torg** (n.), a *market-place*, is possible—if the history fits. The latter would come in easier under the Gaelic influence.

**tré** (n.), a *tree*—**Treshnish**, M. **Trislig**, G. **Lochan-tresdill**, (Lis.), in which last name **-dill** may be **-gil** (n.), a *ghyll*—the *s* always seeks *d* or *t* to follow.

**tröð** (f.), *pasture-land*—**Trodigal**, K. **Trudernish**, I., with which compare **Troternish** in Skye, which is clearly the same name; and **tróð** (n.), *faggot-wood*, seems to be the base in **Glen-trosdale**, J.

**troll** (n.), a *giant*, the "*devil*" of the Norse creed—**Drolsay**, I.

**ugla** (f.), an *owl*—**Ulgadale**, K. = *owl-dale*.

**ulf-r** (m.), a *wolf*—**Ulva**, *wolf-island*, and M. **Uluvalt**, M., *wolf-burn*. **Gleann-uillibh**, J. **Bail'-Uilbh**, I.

**ull** (f.), *wool*—**Uillinish**, M., *Wool-ness*.

**úrr** (m.), the *ur-ox*, or **Urð-r**—**Uruvalg** (Coll and Tiree). **Urugaig** (Col.).

**út** = *out*, in the full sense of *outside*, *outstanding*, &c. —**Udmail**, M.

**vág-r** (m.), a *bay*, "*vœ*"—see **Stiörn**.

**vatz**, of *water*—**Vasapol** (Tiree).

**voll-r** (m.), a *field*; comes as a frequent terminal, as **-mhal** and **-mal**—**Lag-al-gorve** = **lag-r** + **voll-r** + Gael. **garbh**.

**vík** (f.), a *bay*, "*wick*"—in Gaelic as **Ùig**. C., and freq. as terminal **-aig**—**Loch-úigedail**, I.

**yfir**, "*over*," *upper*, N. **yfir-maðr**, an *over-man*, *master*.

*Yfir-land*, the over-land, the against-land; compare *Oitir* (p. 44)—*Ifferdale*, K.

*ýmir* (m.) and *ýma* (f.) were giants of the old Norse imagination. The word comes easily into *Imersay*, I. Compare the similar use of Thor, &c. The word *íma* (f.), *dust, ashes, embers* (the colour of), may be the idea in the giants' name first, and again in the island name. Compare the Gaelic *Riabhach mór* (p. xix.).

## NOTES

THESE notes are meant to pick up omissions, to make corrections, and to throw fuller light upon some difficult names.

Page 19. "Dooros and Doorus, that is, **dubh-ros**, signifies *black wood* in the South (of Ireland), and *black promontory* in the North" (J., ii. 262).

Page 24. *cairbh*, a *carcass*, but *corb*, a *waggon* or *sled*, is possible, with exceptional agreement. The root idea is wicker, referring to the "basket" character of early chariots (Mb)—Lat. *corbis*, a *basket*.

Page 25. **Sceamh**, the Irish Gaelic for the common *wall-fern* (*Polypodium vulgare*), which fits Arinascavach well.

Page 27. It is impossible for names to keep their correct forms where their meaning is not understood. Glemanuil might be quite rightly for **Gleann na Maoile**, *the glen of the Mull*.

Page 28. Campbeltown was of old **Ceann-locha**, or more fully, **Ceann-locha Mhic-Ciarain**. Kilkerran is on the south shore of the loch.

Page 29. In Gartgunnal the first part is clear. It is **gart** (p. 15). I have ventured **-dhuineil** for the second part. In its secondary meaning it is used of *kindly* land, as *coarse* and even *fierce* are used of the other kind of land. There is confirmation in that in Margmonagach = N. **mörg** + **monadhach** the **g** without doubt takes the place of **dh**. **Monadhan**, however, *the bog-berry*, fits the name exactly.

Page 30. Skeroblin, and the names akin, I have found most trying. It would be easy to offer theories regarding such names, but what I cannot confidently accept myself, I prefer not to offer others. There is, however, the peculiar fact that sea-names are frequently found inland.

Page 31. There was an **eascairt** in old Gaelic meaning *coarse lint*, and there is in Irish names **deascairt** and **tua(th)scairt**, the South- and North-airt.

Page 31. Releiridhe I am not sure of, but I have given the only meaning that appears to me possible, **ruighe** (p. 19) and **léireadh**, *torment*, or *suffering*, or *hardship*. There may be a history in the name.

Page 41. I prefer this rendering (*the pool or pond beside the loch*) to others that are possible—it is appropriate as regards position, but the native pronunciation is a shade against it. **Poll tal(amh)ach**, *the earthy pond*, might appear to some to be even better.

Page 44. There is a **sonnach** in Irish names which would give **Sonnachan** readily. It means “a wall, mound, rampart, or circular enclosure.”

Page 45. I gave the genealogy of the kings and rulers of Dalriada rather fully in the *London Scotsman* in 1903, but it cannot be repeated here for want of space. **Erc** was of the seventh generation in direct descent from **Conn Ceudchathach**, *Conn of the Hundred Battles*, high monarch of Erin, who was slain A.D. 157. The three sons of Erc came into Kintyre and the present Argyll A.D. 498—namely, **Fergus mór**, **Loarn**, and **Angus**. *Fergus mor mac Erca cum gente partem Britanniae tenuit, et ibi mortuus est* A.D. 501.—*Tigh*. **Comghall** was the son of Domangairt and grandson of Fergus mór. It was Comghall's son, Conall, who gave Iona to Colum Cille—*bass Conaill mac Comgaill Ri Dalriada xiii anno regni sui, qui offeravit insulam Iae Colum Cille*, A.D. 574.—*Tigh*.

**Comhal**, *a joining*, and even **comhdhail**, *a meeting*, are both within easy reach of the circumstances of the district—the first particularly so. I prefer it to the traditionary explanation in view of the joining of the waters there—the Firth of Clyde, Loch Striven, Loch Riddon, and the Kyles of Bute.

Page 46. This is *lint-bay* from neut. **N. lln,-s**. There is a terminal **-lin** in names, which I have found very difficult to be clear upon, e.g. Braglin, L. (p. 58), Craiglin, K., Creaglan, L.R., Dòirlin, Ederlin (p. 40), Feoirlin, C.K., Grùlin, A.I. I think my rendering of Braglin is right. Craiglin, Ederlin, Feòirlin

(notwithstanding p. 48), and Grùlin almost certainly contain—*linne*, a pool, *linn*, N. *lind*, a well, spring, &c., and even the origin of Doirlin (p. 15) I am in doubt about—it may be the same.

*Page 49.* Although I give the usually accepted rendering of Glendaruel, I am not satisfied with it, because (1) there are not two characteristic streams to explain the name; (2) because *ruaidh* + *eil*, in a single sense, is quite appropriate; (3) because I can easily see how the Art. *na* may have hardened into *da*, which may have been taken in time for *dà*—and for other reasons. My whole feeling is towards *Gleann na ruaidh-eil*—from the river *Ruaidh*, *cf.* the same name in the Braes of Lochaber, and the older records of the name do not show *dà*.

*Page 49.* Striven is not Gaelic, nor is Straven, but the latter is nearer to Gaelic, and perhaps the best rendering of the name would be Strath-aven, both parts being an English rendering of the Gaelic *Srath* + *abhainn*, the river *Strath*, upon which Glen Striven also is named.

*Page 52.* The local rendering is *Loch Airc*. I do not attach much importance to this, because the very strong guttural *c* (*k*) which must come by the contraction of the end syllable of *Each-aig*, is quite sufficient to explain this form. On second thought, I prefer to make the river *Each-aig*, rather than the district, the starting-point of the several names.

*Page 52.* Mr. Whyte has suggested *Ian-eilean*, bird-island, for Inellan. I was against this, because of the strong accent upon the second syllable; this rendering would entail it on the first syllable. But two things have brought me to believe that he is right—(1) the English influence, as seen in Ardinadam (p. 50), and (2) the fact that the small island here is in translation given as the Perch—of the bird, presumably.

*Page 57.* Dr. Joyce has an interesting note regarding this form (ii. 263): "At the bottom of some steep bogs there is found a half-liquid stuff as black as jet, which was formerly used by the peasantry all over Ireland for dyeing black, and is still used in remote districts. It served its purpose admirably well, giving frieze and other woollens an excellent dye. Many of the places where this dye-stuff was found are still indicated by their

names." Pollandoo, Pollandooley, and Pollandoohy are frequent in Ireland. Local knowledge is necessary in order to be sure that this is the meaning of the names in Argyll. (See p. 99.)

Page 58. **Bail' an deòra** has involved in it an extremely important history, well told by Mr. Carmichael in his great work, *Carmina Gadelica*, at p. 259, vol. ii. This **deòra**, *pilgrim, almoner*, is the source of the personal name Dewar, and **Bail' an deòra** was the home of the Campbells who were almoners of the priory of Ardchattain, founded A.D. 1230, one of whom was called the "**deòra mór**," *the Great Dewar*, from whose son, Walter Campbell of Kincardine, "it is almost if not wholly certain" that Robert Burns was descended. Near **Bail' an deòir**, in Glen-lòdain, was the home of the "Rusgain," or Ruskins, of whom was the late prose-poet—John Ruskin. From this same nest of genius came the late Rev. Archibald Clerk, LL.D., the accomplished scholar, who translated and edited "*Ossian*," at the desire and expense of the late Marquis of Bute. Of these Dewars also—but from the island of Lismore—came David Livingstone. His people were almoners of the Church of St. Moluag (p. 172), the cathedral church of the See of Argyll, founded A.D. 1200. The name Livingstone is in Gaelic **Mac an Léigh**, of a clan of hereditary *physicians* said to be descended from the Beaton's who are so famous in the medical history of Scotland. See my *Gaelic Medical MS. of 1563*, in Trans. Caled. Med. Society, April 1902. This is not a bad contribution of manliness from this small corner of the earth—and there were others.

Page 59. **Cruit** is a *harp*, from the same root as **croit**, a *hump* or a *bent, round thing*, therefore a *round hillock*, of which this name may be the simple plural form. The king-fisher is **cruitein**, the *crouched* or *bent-one*, and **cruitear** is a *harper*. The stream may be **cruit**, *bent*, + **an**, *water*.

Page 66. Two meanings are possible for Ardentinnny. It may be, and most likely is, *the height* on which *warning fires* were lit—for the aid of mariners or in times of invasion; or it may be that *need-fires* were lit here on 1st May—**Bealtainn** Day—as a propitiatory rite to the god Bel or Baal. See a full description, C. G., p. 340, vol. ii.

*Page 67.* **Créran** is a difficult name. The **-an** is, I think, certainly the river-ending (p. 49), and this suggests that the first part is Gaelic, although it is difficult to make out. Several words are possible, but I doubt them all so much that I do not give them.

*Page 70.* **Teitheil** might be better referred to the river-name in **-eil + teth**, *hot*; and Ceitlein (p. 70) may perhaps be rather named on the stream **-an, -ein** with **céis**, *a pig*—an old word.

*Page 71.* **Urchaidh** (the **u** should be short—not long, as given) shows in its termination **-aidh**, a common river-ending, e.g. **Lòch-aidh, Màil-idh**; and it is only a fair guess if I suggest that the first part is related to that in **ur-ch-air**, *a shot*, referring to the remarkable straightness of the river in its long course. There is, however, old Gaelic **orc**, *a salmon*, which is better, **orcc din ainm do bratan** (*Cor.* 129), *orcc therefore a name for a salmon*. The gen. in **ui** would come easily, e.g. **bolg, builg**, &c. The fame of the river for salmon has travelled far.

*Page 71.* With respect to **Fiodhan**, it may be noted that **fiodhag** is the *bird-cherry tree*.

*Page 72.* "A tradition still exists among the old people of the place that the Ruskins were '**luchd ceaird**,' *artisans, draoinich, sculptors*. There were schools of sculpture in the Highlands. One was **Innis-draoinich**, Loch Awe—a few miles from the home of the Ruskins—Glenlònain. **Innis-draoinich** means *the isle of the sculptors*." Surely when we know of the author of *The Stones of Venice* we must, even more than ever, respect the wonderful wisdom of our Gaelic proverbs, of which one says **sgoiltidh an dualachas a' chreag**, *heredity will cleave (or split) the rock*. Ruskin remained in all his life the sculptor—from Glenlònain. Livingstone, as Mr. Carmichael so well says, cleaved his way through harder rocks than any of his kindred ever faced at Bachull in Lismore. It is peculiar that the farm should now be called *The Crozier*, that is, however, because the older governing words have fallen out.

*Page 72.* Within a few hundred yards of **Innis-draoinich** is **Innis-ail**, which Mr. Carmichael says is **Innis + àil**, *beautiful isle*—true certainly in fact, even if, on the side of language, there

may be room to doubt. "There was a house of Cistercian nuns here, and an ancient burying-ground, and there are ancient sculptured stones, probably unexcelled for beauty of design and of execution."

*Page 72:* **Gleann-sratha** is appropriate, and it is good Gaelic and good form, but there is a **srae** or **sraeth** in Irish names, which means *a mill-race*. It is vocally a better rendering here—if the mill-race was or is there.

*Page 73.* Lios is always a stronghold in Irish names.

*Page 81.* In Scottish Gaelic this is the meaning of **cladh** always, but in Irish names it means a mound, dyke, or rampart. The two usages need not be very different—the words are certainly the same.

*Page 81.* Conaghleann is the glen of the **Cona** river, and this again is an animal-named river like **Bà = bà + a, Each-aig**.

*Page 91.* Horsegate may come from N. **hross + gata**, *horse-path*, and though of the same meaning better so than from English.

*Page 97.* Innsir shows the peculiar terminal **-ir**, which I have now come to believe is always a river or stream terminal perhaps the same in origin as that of *riv-er* itself. Liver (59), Duisker (146), Beigir (155), Lobhair (44), all show it.

*Page 101.* Conaigearaidh is on the same lines as Conasairidh with **Con** as base and **aig, as + àiridh**.

*Page 105.* There is an old word **eiligeir**, which seems to have meant *trap* for large animals—perhaps for *elks*—in very much the same way as **Cairidh** was a *trap* for fish (p. 138).

*Page 106.* Loch-tiacais is most difficult. The name is Gaelic in grammar clearly, but I know nothing approaching **tiac** in the language except the gerund form **tigheachd**, or **teachd**, of the irregular verb *to come*. **Tigheachd-ais** is not at all far fetched. The only other suggestion that I can offer is that the base may be N. **tjock**, *thick, dense*, but I cannot see any fitness, and the Norseman is not much in evidence here.

*Page 110.* **Beinn-bhùgain** seems to be **B. bhudhagain**, from **budh-ag**, *a bundle of straw*; but the old **buaf**, *a frog, toad, snake* (which remains in **bua(f)-ghallan**, *groundsel*, or



rather the *yellow ragweed*—*Senecio viscosus*) may easily form the name **B. bhua(fh)ag-ain**.

Page 112. Loch Spelvie, locally **Loch-spéilbh** or **L. Spéil-bhidh**, seems to be named upon a river or stream of which I can find no trace. The name is Gaelic. **Speil** means a *herd of cattle*, and this with terminal **-aibh**, or **aidh**, would give the name without much difficulty, and would be quite consistent with **Loch-bà** and the other animal river-names. **Spéil**, *slide* or *skate*, is not very acceptable as the base, although **Loch-frisa** (p. 228) would seem to give it some countenance.

Page 114. **Bìth** in the sense of *quiet, peaceful, humble* is quite familiar. There is a proverb, **Cho bìth ri luch for ladhar a chait**, as *quiet as a mouse under the "hoof" of the cat*.

Page 115. **Cannel**, upon which the glen is named, though not familiar modern Gaelic, is certainly **càin-eil**, *the fair or white river*—the same stem as in **Cain-nech** (p. 171), *the fair one*. The only other word which approaches the name is **Caineal**, *cinnamon*, Lat. *canella*, which is out of the question here. The word has secondary meanings even into the province of conduct and morals, just as English says a "fair" man.

Page 117. **Lochdon**, if my interpretation is right, refers to the *depth* of the loch *into* the land, rather than to its actual depth of water.

Page 120. **Bellart** River is like Tarbert River, S., and many others, named upon their place and position—in this case from **beul-ard**, *high mouth*—another fanciful body-name, referring to a *high opening*, which gives the place its name.

Page 123. **Beart** occurs in Irish names as **beartrach**, meaning a *sand-bank* (J. ii. 387).

Page 127. **Stàn** seems to come by this way of *stagnum*, because the accent is long; otherwise, **stanna**, a *tub, vat*, would do—as in **Aird-tunna**.

Page 127. Ruaig is the adj. **ruadh**, *red* (Colours) + **aig**, *the red-land* or district. I thought at first that the terminal might be **-vík**, which would make the name Norse, but I am satisfied that it is not so.

Page 128. The word **bréid**, like many others, has degraded from its first meaning. It was, in its best usage, a square of fine

white linen donned by a young woman on the first day of her married life—as the sign of wifehood. It was fastened to the hair as a three-cornered kertch, and was very becoming. The sail of a boat is also called **bréid** poetically, and that perhaps is the meaning here.

*Page 129.* **Brù** in Gaelic means *a belly, bulging, or opening out* of a lake or sea-loch, *e.g.* **a' bhrù mhor** on Loch Sunart. Here, however, the position is entirely against the Gaelic word—as is also the grammar. Although N. **brú** is fem., it here has the Gael. masc. article. This, however, is not uncommon. See **vík**, p. 241.

*Page 129.* **Trealamh** is a *gathering* of substances—in this case most likely of sea-wrack and perhaps wreckage.

*Page 131.* Although **Samh** is here given in Gaelic form, it is certain that the word is N. **haf**, *the sea* or *the main* ocean. Several of our Gaelic poets have used the word clearly in this sense. The word and name is therefore (Camus) **an t-half**, with the Gaelic article and genitive form—“**fuaim an t-saimh**” (**haf**) is *the roar of the sea*.

*Page 135.* This loch is not *a mile* long, nor a mile from anywhere in particular. The name should most likely be **Loch a' bhile**, which is fitting to the sharp rise of nearly 600 feet immediately behind it.

*Page 135.* Reeves maintains that the true and original Coire-Bhreacain is in the Sound between the island of Rathlin and County Antrim, and that the Coire-Bhreacain between Scarba and Jura is only a name borrowed by the monks of Iona—to fit a similar case. See Reeves' *Adamnan*, p. 29, and his *Ecc. Ant.*, p. 289. There is room to doubt this, but it cannot be discussed here.

*Page 136.* The early custom of treating criminals, or “sinners,” in the Highlands seems to have been to hang the men and drown the women. There is no fem. word in Gaelic equivalent to the masc. **crochaire**. Perhaps there is a shade of delicacy in the fact.

*Page 147.* The word **giùir** seems to mean essentially *a cleft*, whence the **giùir**, *gill-cleft* of fish. It comes easily into a mountain name.

Page 148. **Samh** is the *Rumex acetosa*, or perhaps preferably, *R. acetosella*, or *sheep-sorrel*.

Page 149. **Tiompan** in Irish names means *a hillock* and *a standing stone*.

Page 150. Coultorsay is misleading, with the accent forward; but the right form, **Cùl-tòrs-ay**, keeping the middle accent, makes the name quite plain, and there is confirmation of this rendering in the Gaelic name associated with and close to it—**Cnoc a' chùil**.

Page 150. Mr. Macneill says the name came from the fact that raw lint was here soaked before preparation.

Page 152. **Glamair** is a smith's *vice*, and **glamaire** is *a greedy man*—the ideas may be akin. The snapping, or rather *gulping*, of a big dog is **glamadh**; and perhaps the best understanding of the word is in its full Gaelic pronunciation. Why this Point is given this peculiar name I cannot say.

Page 157. Proaig is difficult. It is almost certainly Norse in both parts. The first part is the difficulty. I do not think it can be **breið-r**, and the only N. word I can at all suggest is **pruð-r**, *fine* or *grand*.

Page 158. "In early ages, before the extension of cultivation and drainage, the roads through the country must have been interrupted by bogs and morasses which, when practicable, were made passable by causeways—made of branches of trees, bushes, earth, and stones. They were called by the name of **tòchar**" (J. i. 374).

Page 179. His Grace the Duke of Argyll writes me:—"I think you must refer to the Bachul of St. Moluac, the upper portion of which, minus part of the crook and minus the silver and the bronze covering, is in my possession—safe under lock and key. The tiny bronze nails are still in it, and small inner bronze covering are still adhering to them in one or two places. I suppose it to be the oldest church relic in Scotland. But, 'it is nothing to see.' The only good one (that of St. Fillan) was, as you know, found by Professor Wilson in Canada."

# INDEX

I put the "difficult" names only (p. 22) in the index. I try to put the essential, descriptive part of a name as well forward as possible, and I sometimes use the admittedly wrong current form if I think it may facilitate the reference. Where the gen. is given first the governing word follows. The index shows no distinction of the several languages that occur in the book. I use a few contractions—B. for *beinn*, *a hill*; R. for *rudha*, *a point*; E. for *eilean*, *an island*; P. for *port*.

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